

History of
**Botanical Researches in
India, Burma and Ceylon**

(31)

PART I. MYCOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY

By

S. N. DAS GUPTA, D.Sc. (Lond.)

*Professor of Botany, Lucknow University
LUCKNOW, U.P.*

S. N. Das Gupta



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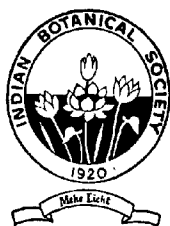
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PREFACE

It was about five years ago that some Members of the Indian Botanical Society discussed with the UNESCO Science Co-operation Office for South Asia the possibility of producing a review of the botanical researches carried out in India, Burma and Ceylon during the last hundred years. UNESCO encouraged the project and promised to help us financially in the publication of the report and indeed gave a generous grant of six hundred dollars.

The matter was placed before the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Botanical Society held in January 1953 and the Secretary was requested to work out the details in consultation with the Members of the Executive Council. In the summer of 1953 some definite assignments were made for the preparation of the reviews. Later, these were slightly modified and the present list is as follows:—

1. *History of the Indian Botanical Society*—M. O. P. Iyengar.
2. *Algæ*—M. O. P. Iyengar and T. V. Desikachary.
3. *Mycology and Plant Pathology*—S. N. Das Gupta.
4. *Bryophytes*—S. K. Pandé.
5. *Pteridophytes*—N. P. Chowdhury.
6. *Gymnosperms*—P. Maheshwari and B. M. Johri.
7. *Systematic Botany of Angiosperms*—H. Santapau.
8. *Anatomy of Angiosperms*—G. C. Mitra.
9. *Floral Anatomy*—V. Puri.
10. *Wood Anatomy*—K. A. Chowdhury.
11. *Embryology of Angiosperms*—P. Maheshwari and B. M. Johri.
12. *Palæobotany*—A. R. Rao.
13. *Physiology*—K. N. Lal.
14. *Ecology*—R. Misra.
15. *Cytogenetics*—P. N. Bhaduri and S. Ramanujam.

In the preparation of these reviews it was decided to keep the following objectives in mind: (1) The information should be of real value to scientists. (2) The bibliography should be as complete as possible.

At the Baroda Meeting of the Indian Botanical Society held in January 1954, it was decided to turn over the work of editing the

manuscripts to me. Later at my request the Society agreed to form an Editorial Board consisting of four persons: Prof. P. Maheshwari, Prof. T. S. Sadasivan, Prof. A. Abraham and Dr. B. M. Johri.

Further as a result of discussions between the Members of the Editorial Board and Members of the Executive Council, it was finally decided to give up the idea of bringing out one single volume as this would involve a lot of delay. It seemed more appropriate that the reviews of the various branches of botany be published separately as and when ready. Accordingly the third number, *Mycology and Plant Pathology*, written by Prof. S. N. Das Gupta is being released immediately. The reviews on Systematic Botany and Palæobotany are also in press and it is hoped that henceforth we shall be able to publish three or four reviews every year completing the whole project in about four years from now.

DELHI UNIVERSITY,
April 14, 1958.

P. MAHESHWARI,
Professor of Botany.

INTRODUCTION

THE history of modern Mycology in India begins with foreign visitors who in the nineteenth century made stray collections of fungi from the country and sent their specimens to European laboratories for study and identification. Hooker and Thompson's extensive collection, comprising a large number of agarics from the Eastern Himalayas, marks the beginning of a more comprehensive and systematic survey of Indian fungi; agarics from this collection were later described by Berkeley. Another important contribution on similar lines was made by Sulpis Kurz, the then curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, whose large collection of fungi from Bengal and Burma was described by Currey.

The break from the tradition of sending abroad the Indian fungus collections came from the pioneering efforts of the officers of the Indian Medical Service, of whom the names of D. D. Cunningham and A. Barclay deserve special mention for initiating the local investigation of fungi in this country. Cunningham's contributions deal with the fungi belonging to orders Mucorales, Ustilaginales, and Uredinales; Barclay investigated the rusts occurring in the vicinity of Simla. Amongst the first Indians to take up a scientific study of fungi was K. R. Kirtikar, whose collections and study of fleshy fungi during the last decade of the 19th century marks the beginning of Indian initiative in the field of Mycology.

It was, however, left to E. J. Butler to initiate and organise for the first time on a large scale mycological and phytopathological research in India. During his twenty years' stay in this country, working at the Imperial (now Indian) Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa (now at New Delhi), Butler founded a great research tradition in Mycology and Plant Pathology which set the pattern for future progress in these branches of study. Butler's *magnum opus* "Fungi and Disease in Plants" remains an all-time classic on the subject in India; the later British version of this book entitled "Plant Pathology" by Butler and Jones, derives in a large measure its basic structure and design from the earlier Indian publication. After Butler's departure from India in 1921, work in mycology and plant pathology was carried on by his associates. In the meanwhile, the great significance of research in these fields of study for this country was gradually realised and workers in increasing numbers took up this work. To-day, after 50 years of steady progress, India possesses a large team of trained mycologists and plant pathologists who, working in the various research centres all over the country, are contributing their bit towards the progress of these sciences.

Important amongst the mycological and phytopathological research centres in India to-day are: Indian Agricultural Research Institute,

New Delhi (Taxonomic Mycology, Plant Pathology including Virology); Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun (Forest Mycology and Pathology; Polyporaceæ); Kar (formerly Carmichael) Medical College, Calcutta (Polyporaceæ); Botany Departments of Universities of Lucknow (Mycology and Plant Pathology; Mango diseases), Allahabad (Mycology; Physiology of Fungi; Pythiaceæ), and Madras (Soil fungi and soil-borne diseases). Besides these, mycologic and phytopathologic research is being carried out at the Agricultural Colleges at Kanpur, Poona and elsewhere and the Government Departments of Forest and Agriculture in various States.

TAXONOMY AND MORPHOLOGY OF FUNGI

(a) *General*.—The development of mycology in India has been reviewed by Bagchee (1939), Chaudhuri (1932 *a*, 1934 *a*, 1936 *a*) and Mitter (1935). Recently Mundkur (1951), in his Presidential Address to the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress, outlined the progress of studies in taxonomic mycology in India. The present review makes a brief reference to the subject.

The establishment of the Mycology Division with attached herbarium—Herbarium Cryptogamæ Orientalis—at the Imperial (now Indian) Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, by Butler made available for the first time in India a well-equipped mycological laboratory with a comprehensive reference library. Exsiccatti of important fungi were obtained from renowned mycologists of the world and fungi from all parts of the country were collected and studied by Butler and his associates. A number of papers on Indian fungi were contributed by Butler (1905, *a-d*, 1918) and Sydow and Butler (1906, 1907, 1911, 1912 and 1916). In the meanwhile, Theissen (1912, 1913) published two papers on the fungi of India. In 1931, Butler and Bisby compiled "The Fungi of India" listing 2,351 species and provided a host index for phytopathogenic forms. A supplement to the "Fungi of India" was published by Mundkur (1938 *d*), raising the total number to 2868 species of fungi known till then from India. A second supplement by Ramakrishnan and Subramanian (1952) listed further additions to the "Fungi of India" comprising 812 species recorded during the period 1938-51, bringing the total number of Indian fungi recorded so far to 3,680.

In addition to the centralised research on Indian fungi at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, regional and local surveys were also made by mycologists in different parts of the country. Notes on South Indian fungi were published by McRae (1917), while Mudaliar (1922) gave a historical account of South Indian fungi. Mitter and Tandon published a series of papers on the fungus flora of Allahabad (1930 *a, c*, 1937 *a*), Nainital (1932, 1938) and Mussorie (1937 *b*). Mathur (1936 *a, b*) published notes on the fungus flora of Lucknow and the North-West Himalayas. Chowdhury (1932) recorded the fungi of Lucknow. Uppal, Patel and Kamat (1935) and Uppal, Patel and

Bhide (1949) studied the fungi of Bombay, supplements to which were made by Patel, Kamat and Bhide (1949), Patel, Payak, Gokhale and Kulkarni (1951) and Patel, Payak and Kulkarani (1951). Parasitic fungi of the North-West Frontier Province were reported by Malik and Khan (1943) and those from the vicinity of Banaras, by Payak (1949). Fungi from Assam were recorded by Chowdhuri (1944 *a*, 1948 *a*, *b*), and from Burma by Rhind and Seth (1945). A comprehensive survey of the fungi of Madras was made by T. S. Ramakrishnan and K. Ramakrishnan (1947 *a-c*, 1948 *a*, *b*, 1949 *b*, 1950 *a-c*) and T. S. Ramakrishnan (1951 *a*, *b*, 1952 *b*) and Ramakrishnan, Srinivasan and Sundaram (1952). Ahmed (1949) recently listed some fungi of India and Pakistan.

A number of contributions have been made to the study of soil fungi from different parts of the country. Singh (1932), Singh and Chand (1937), Chand (1937) and Chaudhuri and Sachar (1934) studied the fungus flora of Panjab soils. Galloway (1936 *a*) published a survey of Indian soil fungi. Ghatak and Roy (1939) studied the soil fungi of Bengal paddy-fields. Saksena and Mehrotra (1953) recorded soil fungi of Allahabad while Saksena and Murty (1953) recorded some soil fungi from Saugor. Indian coprophilous fungi were studied by Ginai (1935, 1936). The atmospheric fungal flora of Kanpur was studied by Rajan, Nigam and Shukla (1952).

A series of notes on Indian fungi by Padwick and his associates (1943-46) and papers on the revision of and additions to Indian fungi by Mundkur and Thirumalachar (1946) and Mundkur and Ahmad (1946) were published from the Imperial Mycological Institute, Kew, Surrey. Recently Chona and Munjal (1950 *a*) initiated a series of notes on miscellaneous Indian fungi.

Besides these, a number of studies have been published concerning taxonomy and morphology of special groups of fungi or forms belonging to these groups. The more important among these are briefly outlined below:—

(*b*) *Myxomycetes*.—Myxomycetes have been a much-neglected group of Indian fungi and very few studies of these forms have been published. Extensive collection of myxomycetes was made by Mrs. Drake from Bengal, including Darjeeling, and from Mussorie and other hill stations of U.P. Many of these collections were sent to London and two large collections were left at Calcutta. These collections provided the type material for pioneer records of these fungi from this country. Bruhl and Sen-Gupta (1927) compiled a list of references found in the third edition of Lister's "Monograph of the Mycetezoa" to 161 myxomycete species recorded from India and neighbouring countries. They also described a number of myxomycetes collected by them in Bengal. The two slime-mould collections left by Mrs. Drake at Calcutta were examined, described and sketched by Ahmad (1934 *a*, *b*) under the supervision of H. Chaudhuri. This study was published in the form of an illustrated monograph on the "Indian Slime-moulds".

Recently Agnihotrudu (1954 *a, b*) contributed two illustrated accounts on seven slime-moulds from Southern India.

(c) *Phycomycetes*.—Among *Phycomycetes*, aquatic forms have been the subject of several studies. The earliest description of the aquatic *phycomycetes* of India started in 1907 when E. J. Butler gave an account of the genus *Pythium* and some *Chytridiaceae*. In this contribution he described the life-history of *Pseudolpidium aphanomyces* obtained from cultures of *Aphanomyces laevis* at Pusa. He found the resting spores of this species of *Pseudolpidium* which was only once before reported by Dangeard. He also described the life-histories of *Olpidiopsis minor* parasitic in *Achlya polyandra* from Dehra Dun, and *Olpidiopsis Schenkiana* parasitic in *Spirogyra* at Pusa. A new species of *Nowakowskiella*, viz., *N. ramosa* was discovered by Butler on rotting stems of *Triticum vulgare* from Dehra Dun. He gave a detailed account of the vegetative, reproductive and resting stages of this fungus. Butler also described *Synchytrium*, *Physoderma* and *Achlya* from India. He discovered the genus *Allomyces* in 1911 growing on dead flies in still water at Pusa and in river water at Poona. He described the different developmental stages of this fungus and discussed its affinities in detail. Butler described a number of aquatic species of *Pythium* from India. *P. gracile* parasitic in *Vaucheria aversa* was described from Surat, India. He found it also in *Ricinus communis* at Dehra Dun. As a saprophyte the same fungus occurred in soil and decomposing plant remains at Calcutta. *P. Indigoferae* was found epiphytic on the leaves of *Indigofera erecta* and was cultivated on boiled stems of the same plant in water at the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta. He described *P. proliferum* which is saprophytic on dead insects in water and vegetable debris in the soil from Calcutta and Dehra Dun. Butler (1906 *c*, 1910 *a*) discovered a new species of *Pythium*, *P. palmivorum*, occurring as a parasite on *Borassus flabellifer*, *Cocos nucifera* and *Areca catechu* from Godavari. *P. artotrogus* was found by Butler in rotting potato tubers attacked by *Phytophthora infestans* at Calcutta.

After the description of *Allomyces* by Butler in 1911 there came a gap in the studies of the Indian aquatic fungi till 1929 when H. Chaudhuri made one of the most important contributions to the study in this direction. During 1929-47 he collected and described a large number of the water moulds of India along with a few other parasitic Lagenidiales such as *Myzocytium*. His work started with a study of the flagellates and ciliates of the soil from different parts of India. Then in 1931 he studied the life-history and gave a detailed description of *Myzocytium* sp. parasitic on *Spirogyra*. Chaudhuri (1934 *b*) described a new species of *Saprolegnia* parasitic on fish. In 1935 he and his collaborators began studies on water moulds beginning with descriptions of several species of *Saprolegnia*, *Protoachlya*, *Isoachlya*, *Achlya* and *Rhizidiomyces* of which some were new species. They also studied growth characters and the factors influencing sexual and asexual reproductions in these fungi. Chaudhuri and Kochhar (1935 *a, b*) dealt with 20 species of water moulds from Lahore district including many species of *Achlya*, a few forms of *Aplanes* and *Isoachlya*, *Protoachlya* and *Rhizidiomyces*. Chaudhuri and Lotus (1936) described a

few more forms of Indian water moulds, while Chaudhuri and Singh (1936) described the behaviour of some water moulds in culture. In 1937 further studies of these forms were reported to the Indian Science Congress by Chaudhuri and A. Hamid. Chaudhuri (1942 *a, b*) discovered a new genus of Saprolegniaceæ which he called *Hamidia*.

A. Mitra (1935 *b*) isolated, cultured and studied the morphological and physiological characters of a few forms of aquatic fungi such as *Allomyces arbuscula*, *Pythium*, *Achlya*, *Dictyuchus* and *Aphanomyces*.

Murdia (1939 *a*) published observations on the development of zoosporangium and liberation of zoospore in *Achlya*. Hamid (1942 *a, b*) described a few more forms of water moulds. In 1942 *Olpidium uredinis* was described by Thirumalachar (1942 *b*).

In the year 1947 a most valuable contribution to the study of the Indian aquatic fungi was made by H. Chaudhuri and his associates in "A Handbook of Indian Water Moulds".

Patel, Kulkarni and Dhande (1949 *a*) started a study on the Synchronytriacæ to which were added the contributions of Payak (1951), Gupta and Sinha (1951), Lacy (1950 *a*).

Lacy (1949) described *Lagenidium entophyllum*, *Entophlyctis bulligera*, *Chytridium olla* and *Aphanomyces apophysii* (sp. nov.) collected from the vicinity of Patna. In the same year Thirumalachar (1949 *a*) described a species of *Physoderma* parasitic on the leaves of *Limnanthemum indicum*. Studies on three important groups of aquatic fungi, viz., Blastocladales, Monoblepharidales and Lagenidiales were made by Das Gupta and (Miss) Rachel John (1953 *a-d*).

Besides these aquatic forms, a large number of other phycomycetous fungi have been studied; many of these include phytopathogenic species belonging to the genera *Pythium* and *Phytophthora*. Taxonomic studies on the genus *Pythium* include Butler's (1913 *b*) description of *P. de Baryanum* and Balakrishnan's (1948 *a, b*) reports on five species of *Pythium* from South India, of which one was assigned to a new species *P. indicum*, while the other four, *P. carolinianum*, *P. paræcandrum*, *P. periplocum* and *P. catenulatum*, were new records for India. Among the new species of *Phytophthora* described from India, mention may be made of the description of *P. meadii* by McRae (1918 *a*) and *P. himalayensis* by Dastur (1948). Thomas and his associates (1947, 1948) investigated oospore formation in relation to the taxonomy of some species of *Phytophthora*. Thomas *et al.* (*loc. cit.*) concluded that the four species of *Phytophthora*, viz., *P. arecæ*, *P. meadii*, *P. faberi* and *P. parasitica* var. *nicotiana*, be merged with *P. palmivora*. Similarly Thomas and Ramakrishnan (*loc. cit.*) concluded that *P. parasitica*, *P. parasitica* var. *piperina* and *P. colocasiæ* be combined into one, *P. colocasiæ*.

A comparative study of the species of *Sclerospora* was made by Uppal. Uppal, in collaboration with Weston (Uppal and Weston, 1936), presented reasons for retaining *Sclerospora sorghi* as a separate species which was formerly classed by Kulkarni (1913) only as a variety of *Sclerospora graminicola*. On the other hand, Uppal and Weston

(1936), found that the differences between *Sclerospora indica* and *S. philippinensis* were not sufficient to justify maintaining them as separate species. Production of oospores by *Sclerospora sorghi* on maize was observed by Patel (1949 *a, b*). Species of *Peronospora* occurring in the Punjab were described by Thind (1941 *a, b*).

Ajrekar and Dharmarajulu (1931) studied the Mucorineæ of Bombay. Sinha (1939 *a, b*; 1940 *a, b*) investigated two species of *Choanephora*, viz., *C. cucurbitarum* and *C. trispora*. He made a revision of characters of the fungus *C. cucurbitarum*, and observed several new points in its morphology (Sinha, 1939 *a, b*; 1940 *a*). Sinha's (1939 *b, c*; 1940 *b*) study of *Blakeslea trispora* revealed that it was the same as *Choanephora trispora*. Sinha's (1940 *a*) study of the development of "monosporous sporangiola" in *C. trispora* suggested that these were intermediate structures illustrating the derivation of conidia from sporangiola.

Recently S. B. Saksena (1953) described a new mucoraceous fungus isolated from soil. He called the genus *Saksenaea* (after R. K. Saksena of Allahabad University). Discussing the affinities of this interesting fungus, he recalled the suggestion of von Jaczewski that the zygomycetes may have been evolved from chytridiaceous fungi.

(*d*) *Ascomycetes*.—The earliest available record of an ascomycete from India appears to be that of Cunningham who identified a perisporiaceus fungus very close to *Meliola* and *Antennaria* causing a leaf blight in the Dehra Dun forests. Since then a large number of ascomycetes have been recorded, and many of them described as new species. In 1911 Butler described a new species of *Taphrina*, viz., *T. maculans*.

Indian species of Aspergilli and Penicillia were listed by Chaudhuri and Umar (1935, 1938) and Chaudhuri (1938) from the Punjab. Chaudhuri (1932 *c*) also reported a case of penicilloid type of conidiophores in *Aspergillus nidulans*. Further addition to the list of Indian Aspergilli was made by deMello (1939). Recently Mohanty (1948) published a list of species and varieties of *Aspergillus* so far recorded from India and discussed the status of these species. He found that out of the 33 species and 2 varieties recorded from India, only 20 species appeared reliable. He also described in detail 6 species of *Aspergillus*, four of them being new records from India and thus raising the total number of Indian Aspergilli at present recognizable to 24 species.

Thirumalachar (1946 *a*) described a new species of *Elsinæ*, viz., *E. bitancourtiana*.

Among taxonomic studies of Erysiphales, the following may be mentioned. Four new species of *Meliola* were described by Stevens (1928). The systematic position of *Oidiopsis taurica* was questioned by Mundkur but Uppal, Kamat and Patel (1937) upheld the validity of this name. Kamat and Patel (1948) recorded some new hosts of *Oidiopsis taurica* and split this highly specialised pathogen into several physiological races.

Several new species have been described among the Sphaeriales. Ryan (1928) described five new species of *Asterina* from India. Tunstall (1934) described a new species of *Glomerella*, viz., *G. major*, on the leaves of the tea plant. Verma (1939, 1940) described a new species of *Bombardia*, viz., *B. hyalina*, obtained from the dry twigs of *Thunbergia grandiflora*. Mitra (1943, 1944) described a new species, *Melanopsamma ranjani*, parasitic on *Selaginella chrysocaulos*.

Petch (1924-26) described a number of species of *Cordyceps* from Ceylon. Petch and Bisby (1950) published "The Fungi of Ceylon" wherein 636 genera and various species have been recorded in Ceylon together with an appendix on fungi pathogenic to man. A species of *Cordyceps* collected from Eastern Tibet was studied by Chaudhuri (1931 b, 1932 e). The morphology of perithecial stages of *Sphaerostilbe bambusae* was studied by Mathur (1936 a).

Ergots have received little attention in this country. According to Pushkar Nath and Padwick (1941), the only ergot reported in India till 1941 was *Sphacelia sorghi*, described by McRae (1917) as the cause of a disease of *Sorghum vulgare*. Kulkarni (1942) reported that the first collection of ergot (*Sphacelia sorghi*) on Jowar (*Sorghum vulgare*) was made at Dharwar by him in 1915. It was suggested by Ajrekar (1926 b) that this fungus was the imperfect stage of a species of *Claviceps*. From Simla, Padwick and Azmatullah (1943) recorded the occurrence of *Claviceps purpurea* and described a new species, *Claviceps viridis*, occurring on *Oplismenus compositus*. In 1946 Adyanthaya reported for the first time the occurrence of *Sphacelia* on the common fodder grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) in South India.

Among the Discomycetes, the confusion regarding the nomenclature of *Tuber zeylanicum* occurring in Ceylon was clarified by Park (1932). A new species of Discomycetes, *Mitrula agharkarii*, was described by Banerjee (1944) from Bengal. Bose (1949) described the morphology of a rare variety of truffle, *Tuber indicum*, collected from Kodaikanal hills, Madras.

(e) *Basidiomycetes*: (i) *Ustilaginales*.—The most important contributions to the taxonomic study of Indian Ustilaginales have come from Mundkur, Thirumalachar and Pavgi. An excellent consolidated account of Indian smuts was recently presented by Mundkur and Thirumalachar (1952) in their well-illustrated monograph on the "Ustilaginales of India" published by the Commonwealth Mycological Institute, Kew.

The efforts of Mundkur and his associates have been largely responsible for placing on a sound footing the study of Indian smuts of which 203 species belonging to 21 genera are known as compared to only less than half of this number of smut species recorded till 1931 (as listed in Butler and Bisby's monograph on the "Fungi of India"). Mundkur (1939 a) presented a short historical account of the smuts collections made in India and studied a number of these forms. In a series of contributions towards a knowledge of Indian Ustilaginales,

Mundkur (1939 *b*, 1940 *a*) and Pavgi and Mundkur (1948) reported the results of a critical reinvestigation of Indian smut collections. Studies in Indian cereal smuts form the subject-matter of another series of contributions by Mundkur. The first of this series was a paper on cereal smuts and their control by the development of resistant varieties (Pal and Mundkur, 1939). In the eighth paper of this series, Mundkur (1945) listed the common names of Indian smut fungi, their scientific names in conformity with the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, and names according to previous practice, together with the probable modes of their transmission. A collection of smuts from the North-western Himalayas was investigated by Mundkur (1944 *b*). He also reported the occurrence of some rare and new smuts from India (Mundkur, 1944 *a*).

Thirumalachar (1950 *a, b*) and Pavgi and Thirumalachar (1951, 1952) contributed a series of notes on the Indian smut fungi. Thirumalachar (1944 *c, d*) described an interesting new genus of smuts from Mysore which he called *Mundkurella*. *Mundkurella* shows unusual features (*viz.*, heterosporous sori, constrictor cells between the promycelial cells, viable one- and two-celled spores) which are not found in any other genus of Ustilaginales. Thirumalachar (1947 *c*) studied the species of the genera *Doassansia*, *Doassansiopsis* and *Burrillia* found in India. Chlamydospore germination and artificial culture of *Ustilago striiformis* from timothy and bluegrass were studied by Thirumalachar and Dickson (1947 *a*). Thirumalachar and Dickson (1949) also studied the cytology and life-cycle of a cypericolous *Entyloma* sp.

Among other morphologic and taxonomic studies of the Indian smut fungi, following may be mentioned: Smuts of the Punjab (Sawhney, 1937; Chaudhuri, 1940), life-history of sugarcane smut, *Ustilago scitaminea* (Luthra, Sattar and Sandhu, 1938). Khanna and Ramnathan (1946) recorded for the first time the occurrence of *Sphacelotheca schweinfurthiana* on "munja grass" (*Saccharum munja*). The first record of the occurrence of a species of *Sphacelotheca* (*S. cruenta*) on sugarcane was made by Chona and Munjal (1951).

Mitra (1931 *a*) recorded a new bunt on wheat in India, which he named *Tilletia indica*. Observations on this smut, renamed *Neovossia indica* (Mitra) Mundkur (= *Tilletia indica*), were recently made by Holton (1949) to elucidate the fundamental differences and similarities between it and the common and dwarf bunts of wheat caused by *Tilletia caries*.

Vaheeduddin (1950) recorded the occurrence of two new physiologic races of *Sphacelotheca sorghi* and published a key for identifying 8 physiologic forms of this grain smut of *Sorghum*.

(ii) *Uredinales*.—Pioneer studies of Indian rust fungi were made by two medical officers of the Indian Army, Cunningham and Barclay. A collection of rusts occurring in the vicinity of Calcutta and elsewhere in Eastern India was made by Cunningham during the years 1875–97. His contributions include a note on the life-history of *Ravenelia sessilis*

and *R. stictica* (Cunningham, 1889) and another note on Indian rusts (Cunningham and Prain, 1896). Barclay (1886-92) contributed a large number of papers on Indian rust fungi, including many descriptions of new species and new records of rusts from this country. Barclay (1887 c, 1889 a, 1890 a 1891 a, b) also published a descriptive list of the rusts occurring in the neighbourhood of Simla in the Western Himalayas. Some Himalayan rusts were also studied by Dietel (1890).

In 1910 Butler described a new genus of rust which he named *Cystopsora* from the characteristic basal cells or cysts present in the teleutosorus. Butler (1912) also described two rusts on wild vines of India and in 1914 he published a detailed description of three more rusts, viz., *Kuehneola fici*, *Coleosporium oldenlandiae* and *Puccinia Kuhnii*.

Ajrekar and his associates made a number of contributions to the studies on Indian rusts. Ajrekar (1912 a) described the castor rust *Melampsorella*. He also studied the life-history of *Cystopsora oieæ* Butl. (Ajrekar, 1912 b). Life-history of *Uromyces aloes* was worked out by Ajrekar and Tonapy (1922). Ajrekar and Parandekar (1931) made observations on the life-history of *Uromyces* sp. occurring on *Jasminum malabaricum*, and found that this rust was different from the rust, *Uromyces hobsoni*, occurring on *Jasminum grandiflorum*.

Arthur and Cummins (1933) recorded 89 species of rusts (including 5 new species and 2 new combinations) collected in India from Punjab, Kashmir, North-west Frontier Province and in the vicinity of Mussoorie in U.P.

Thind (1941 b) made a morphological study of 8 rusts occurring in the Punjab on 9 hosts, of which those occurring on *Asparagus gracilis* and *Grewia asiatica* were new records for the country. In 1942, he (Thind, 1942 a) described *Puccinia phyllocladiae*, the rust occurring on *Asparagus gracilis*.

Mehta's investigations on the epidemiology of cereal rusts form one of the major contributions to rust studies in India (reviewed elsewhere, p. 33). Mehta also studied the morphology and infection histology of the physiological species of *Puccinia graminis* (Mehta, 1924, 1927 a, b) and *P. trititica* (Mehta, 1927 c). Prasada, a student and collaborator of Mehta, also made a number of contributions to the study of rusts in this country. He recorded the occurrence of æcidial stage of linseed rust, *Melampsora lini* (Prasada, 1940) and the uredo-stage of *Aecidium* found on *Thalictrum* in the Simla hills (Prasada, 1946). Prasada (1947 d) discovered the uredo-stage connected with the æcidia so commonly found on species of *Berberis* in the Simla hills. He found that this rust was a new specialised form of *P. graminis* which he designated as *P. graminis agropyri*. Prasada (1948 b) also studied the formation and germination of teliospores of several rusts.

Mundkur, Thirumalachar and their associates made many important contributions to taxonomic and morphologic study of Indian rust fungi. New genera of rusts described by this school of workers

include *Catenulopsora* (Mundkur and Thirumalachar, 1943), *Dasturella* (Mundkur and Kheswalla, 1943), *Mehtamyces* and *Santapauella* (Mundkur and Thirumalachar, 1945), *Acervulopsora* (Thirumalachar, 1945 c) and *Kernia* (Thirumalachar, 1946 b). A new species of *Ravenelia* occurring on *Acacia modesta* was described by Mundkur and Prasad (1938). Mundkur (1943 d) also recorded the occurrence of 8 (including 2 new) species of *Phakopsora* and two species (including one new combination) of *Bubakia* from this country.

Thirumalachar (1939) studied the morphology of different developmental stages of *Uromyces hobsoni*, an autoecious rust on *Jasminum grandiflorum*. He also found that the galls induced by the rust *Hapalophragmium ponderosum* on *Acacia leucophalæa* resembled in anatomical and developmental features the common "crown gall" of plants caused by *Bacterium tumefaciens* (Thirumalachar, 1941 b). Thirumalachar described a number of new rust species including *Puccinia leiocarpum* (1941 c), *Melampsora mundkuri* (1941 d), *Didymopsora toddaliae* and *D. macrospora* (1942 b), *Phragmotelium mysorensis* (1942 c), *Puccinia chomeliae* (1942 f), *Massecella narasimhanii* (1943 a), *Uredo elettariae* (1943 b). Thirumalachar (1947 b) investigated two interesting rusts, *Anthomycetella canarii* (a leaf rust on *Canarium villosum*) and the bamboo rust *Stereostratum corticioides* which is characterised by *Corticium*-like telia measuring upto 10 cm. in diameter (largest known sori, so far unknown from among other rust genera).

Thirumalachar (1945 e, 1947 a, 1950 c) published a series of papers describing some noteworthy rusts collected from South India. A careful study of the status of the rust genera *Allopuccinia*, *Leucotelium*, *Edythea* and *Ypsilospora* was made by Thirumalachar and Cummins (1948) who reduced the genera *Allopuccinia* and *Leucotelium* to synonymy with *Sorataea*; the genus *Edythea* to synonymy with *Desmella*; and *Ypsilospora* synonymous with *Chaconia*. Thirumalachar and Cummins (1949) also reviewed the genera *Chaconia*, *Chrysocelis*, *Scopella* and *Maravalia*, together with synonymous genera, and found that the taxonomic significance of sporogenous basal cells in the uredia and telia of plant rusts was overemphasized. They did not consider the presence of basal cells of generic significance and presented a key, based on other characters, for a group of genera in which basal cells figured prominently. Thirumalachar and Kern (1949) made a comparative study of some species of *Phakopsora* with related genera, commented on the taxonomic concepts of the group and presented a concise key to the genera *Angiopsora*, *Phakopsora*, *Bubakia*, *Bæodromus*, *Dasturella*, *Arthuria* and *Cerotelium*.

The most outstanding contribution to Uredinology from this country was made by Thirumalachar and Mundkur (1949 a, b, 1950 a, b) in a series of papers on the genera of rusts published in the *Indian Phytopathology*. In this series of papers, they brought together the mass of scattered information regarding 120 rust genera of the world, apart from 10 fossil genera (including 6 doubtful or excluded genera).

T. S. Ramakrishnan and his school of workers have made a number of contributions to the study of South Indian rust fungi. They described a large number of new rust species (T. S. Ramakrishnan, 1950, 1951 *c*; T. S. Ramakrishnan and K. Ramakrishnan, 1947 *d, e*, 1949 *c*; Ramakrishnan and Soumini, 1947 *a*; Ramakrishnan and Srinivasan, 1950 *a*; Ramakrishnan and Subramaniam, 1946; and Ramakrishnan and Sundaram, 1952), and established two new genera, viz., *Scopelopsis* (T. S. Ramakrishnan and K. Ramakrishnan, 1947 *d*) and *Gymnopuccinia* (T. S. Ramakrishnan, 1951 *c*). Sunanda Kamath (1947) investigated the life-history of *Puccinia ruelliae* on *Ruellia prostrata* and studied in detail the succession of the different spore forms and their mode of development.

A new genus of rust, *Kulkarniella*, occurring on *Pavetta tomentosa*, was described by Gokhale and Patel (1951).

Gopalakrishnan (1951) made a comparative study of soral morphology of 32 species of *Hemileia*, including *Hemileia vestatrix*, the well-known cause of a severe disease of coffee leaves. He suggested the division of the genus *Hemileia* into sub-genera on the basis of soral morphology and position. He stressed the importance of primary sori in the classification of rusts and observed that the basal cells and teliospore variations were not sure bases for generic distinction in the Uredinales.

Venkatarayan (1951) analysed the characters distinguishing *Hapalophragmium* from *Triphragmium* and found no reason to separate the two. The creation of a new genus *Hapalophragmiopsis* by Thirumalachar was found to be unnecessary by Venkatarayan who proposed a new combination *Triphragmium ponderosum* to include these forms.

(iii) *Homobasidiomycetes*.—The work on polypores constitutes a significant bulk of the contributions made to the study of *Homobasidiomycetous* fungi in India during the last fifty years. One of the foremost workers on polypores has been S. R. Bose, under whose distinguished leadership the Botanical Laboratory of the Kar (formerly Carmichael) Medical College, Calcutta, developed during the last three decades as the leading centre of research on Polyporaceæ and other fleshy fungi in India.

Bose recorded a large number of polypores from Bengal (Bose, 1921 *a-c*, 1924, 1925) and Assam (Bose, 1937 *c*), some of these being new records for India, and include several new species. He described the geographical distribution and history of polypores in Bengal (Bose, 1922 *a-c*) and studied their distribution at high altitudes (Bose, 1935 *a, b*). He made several contributions to the study of abnormal structures in polypores (1931, 1933 *a*, 1935 *d*, 1936, 1937 *a, b*, 1939 *a*). Bose (1944), from his wide experience of work with polypores, suggested the use of certain characteristic anatomical features for the specific delimitation of these fungi, in addition to the characters of basidia and spores.

Banerjee, of the Botany Department, Calcutta University, in collaboration with several associates, made several contributions to the advance of research on polypores. Agharkar and Banerjee (1933 *a, b*) recorded polypores and other hymenomycetous fungi from Calcutta and its suburbs, and later Banerjee and Ghosh (1945) recorded these fungi from Sikkim, Himalayas.

Working at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, Bakshi (1952) found *Oedocephalum lineatum* to be the conidial stage of *Fomes annosus*. Bhagwager (1935 *a*) reported a collection of Polyporaceæ of Central Provinces. The polypores in other regions of India have received only a passing attention from mycologists and only stray reports of them appear to exist.

The Agaricaceæ have suffered from a surprising degree of prolonged neglect by mycologists in India, but lately certain amount of interest has been evinced for the study of these fungi. Several contributions have been made from the Botanical Laboratory of the Kar Medical College, Calcutta. S. R. Bose and A. B. Bose (1940) published an account of edible mushrooms of India and pointed out the need for introducing mushroom cultivation in this country. A. B. Bose (1940) made a study of the fairy rings of mushrooms of Calcutta, and Bose (1949 *b*) recorded the occurrence of *Marasmius equicrinus*, an epiphytic horse-hair fungus in Bengal. Bose and Chatterjee (1950) reported a case of an apparent symbiosis of *Lagerstræmia flos-reginae* with *Marasmius canysanella*.

Thivy (1947) began a study of the systematics and bionomics of the mushrooms of Madras and Moses (1948) made a preliminary report on the mushrooms of Baroda.

The progress made in India in the study of Thelephoraceous fungi has been mainly with regard to the phytopathogenic species which have been recorded, amongst others, by Butler (1918), Narasimhan (1933 *a, c*), Mundkur (1934 *b*) and Dastur (1941, 1946). Amongst the consolidated accounts of this group, mention may be made of Banerjee's (1933 *a, b*) record of the Thelephoraceæ of Bengal and his investigations on their comparative anatomy.

Of the phytopathogenic Thelephoraceæ, the species belonging to the genus *Corticium* are best known in India. A number of important plant diseases are caused by the Rhizoctonia stage of this fungus. Taxonomy and parasitism of Indian species of *Rhizoctonia* was studied by Shaw (1912) and Shaw and Ajrekar (1915). There has been recently certain amount of controversy regarding the validity of the generic name *Corticium* and its subsequent transference to *Pellicularia* made by Rogers (1943), and this led to numerous nomenclatural emendments. Thus Dastur (*loc. cit.*) changed, in the light of Mundkur's (1940 *b*) criticism, the names *Corticium album* and *Corticium salmonicolor* in line with Rogers. Venkatarayan (1949 *b*) recently examined the implications of the revival of the name *Pellicularia koleroga* by Rogers (*loc. cit.*), and suggested that the revival was not proper. He

proposed that the generic name *Pellicularia* Cooke be changed to *Botryobasidium* Donk.

Gadd and Loos (1948) studied the basidiospores of *Exobasidium vexans*, the cause of blister blight of tea leaves in Ceylon. T. S. Ramakrishnan and K. Ramakrishnan (1949 a) described six species of *Exobasidium* from South India.

As compared to the Hymenomyces, the progress made in the study of Gasteromycetous fungi has been relatively less striking. Ahmad recorded a number of Gasteromycetes from the Punjab plains (1939 a, b, 1941 a) and from the N. W. Himalayas (1941 b, 1942), and after the partition of India, published a study of the morphology of *Disciseda cervina* (Lycoperdaceæ) from Pakistan (Ahmad, 1950). Narasimhan (1928 a, 1932) recorded a collection of phalloids from Mysore, while Chowdhury and Verma (1944) reported some of these fungi from Lucknow. Iyengar (1937) reported *Clathropsis*, a new genus of Phalloideæ from Madras.

(f) *Deuteromycetes*.—Butler and Bisby (*loc. cit.*) observed that "the Fungi Imperfecti are present in India in enormous numbers, and includes many important parasitic groups. Not much work has as yet been done upon them. . . . Some special study has been given to *Cercospora* (Sydow and McRae, 1930) with the result that 59 species are now known in India. . . . *Diplodia*, *Phoma*, *Phyllosticta* and *Septoria* are other common genera in India, as elsewhere".

Considerable progress has been made in the study of Deuteromycetes in India since Butler's time. A number of new records have been made and several new species have been described. The emphasis, however, has been mainly on the study of their physiology and genetics, particularly in the genera like *Fusarium*, *Colletotrichum* and *Helminthosporium* or on plant pathological lines. Amongst the studies of a general nature, mention may be made of Padwick's (1941) paper on the use of field observation in classifying Fungi Imperfecti and Subramanian's (1952 c-e) series of three papers recording the Fungi Imperfecti from Madras.

U. B. Singh (1930, 1931, 1934) carried out a series of studies in the genus *Cercospora* and described a new species *C. indica*, causing leaf-spots of *Cajanus indicus*.

Mehta, P. R. (1935 b) made a morphological and cultural study of the genera *Vermicularia*, *Colletotrichum* and *Gloeosporium*. He observed that the criteria of classification of these genera, viz., the character of stroma (erumpent in *Vermicularia* and innate in *Colletotrichum*), the number and the distribution of setæ are partly, if not entirely, controlled by environmental factors and are, therefore, of little taxonomic value.

A series of comprehensive studies of the genus *Fusarium* have been made by Padwick. In 1939, he described the known occurrence of

Fusarium in India. He also made a critical study of several phytopathogenic *Fusaria* (Padwick, 1940 *a, b*).

DaCosta and Mundkur (1947) made a revision of the genus *Phyllosticta*. Their investigations indicate the presence of 7 species which are new records and 6 others which are proposed as new species, raising the total number of species in India from 47 to 60.

Venkatakrishnaiah (1952) recently reported the development of the perithecial stage (*Glomerella psidii*) of *Colletotrichum psidii* in pure culture for the first time from India. Subramanian and Ramakrishnan (1953) investigated in detail the nature of the spore appendage in *Neottiospora*.

There have been several reports of Deuteromycetous hyperparasites during recent years. Amongst these mention may be made of the reports on *Darluca filum*, a Phomaceous hyperparasite of rusts, by Ramakrishnan and Narasimhalu (1941 *b*) from South India and by R. Prasada (1948 *d*) from Simla. Prasada (*loc. cit.*) pointed out that it was useless to attempt to control wheat rusts in the field by *Darluca filum*. Thirumalachar (1942 *d*) reported the occurrence of *Tuberculina costaricana* as a hyperparasite on Jasmine rust (*Uromyces hobsoni*). Venkatarayan (1946 *b*) recorded the occurrence of *Cicinnobolus ceasti* (Phomaceæ), a natural fungus parasite of powdery mildew (*Leveillula taurica*) on *Cyamopsis psoralioides*, for the first time from India. Srinivasan (1951) reported the occurrence of *Monotrichum commelinae* (Melanconiaceæ) as a hyperparasite on *Kordyana indica* and *K. celebenis* occurring respectively on *Commelina benghalensis* and *C. attenuata*.

Mundkur investigated the development of the perfect stage of *Sclerotium rolfsii* in culture (Mundkur, 1934 *b*) and the parasitism of *Sclerotium oryzae* (Mundkur, 1935 *a, b*).

A. K. Mitra (1941 *a*) reported the occurrence of *Ectostroma*, a mycelial fungus on living leaves of *Lindsaya cultrata*.

PHYSIOLOGY OF FUNGI

1. *Introduction*.—Concurrent with the changes in trends of mycological research in other countries, in India also there has been a shift in emphasis from morphological to physiological studies of fungi during recent years. In 1923, Shaw emphasized the need for a physiological bias in mycological research. The growing interest of Indian workers in the physiology of fungi during the last twenty-five years is reflected in the increasing number of publications concerning studies on growth, sporulation, nutrition and metabolism of fungi, and the associative effects amongst themselves and with other organisms. The physiology of parasitism by fungi has received particular attention from Indian workers.

2. *Growth*.—Amongst some of the more recent publications on the effect of various physical and chemical factors on the growth of fungi, mention may be made of the studies of Ramakrishnan (1941 *e*)

on *Colletotrichum falcatum*, Chowdhury (1944 g) on *Cercospora*, Bhargava (1945 f-l) on some members of *Saprolegniaceae*, Asthana (1947 a, b, c) on two species of *Sclerotium* and Raychaudhuri (1947 d) on *Diplodia cajani*. Chowdhury (1946 g) investigated the effect of pH on the growth and parasitism of *Sclerotium rolfsii*. The effect of aeration on the growth and sporulation of some soil *Fusaria* was studied by Sarojini (Miss) and Yogeswari (Miss) (1947). Studies by Sinha (1950) on chemical factors affecting the growth of fungi in mangoes suggested a certain degree of correspondence between the growth reaction of the fungi to sugar and acid concentration, and to their power of attacking mango fruits at different stages of maturity. Cultural studies by Hafiz (1951) indicated that the production of concentric zones of pycnidia of *Ascochyta rabiei* on gram pods in nature could perhaps be attributed to the daily fluctuations in atmospheric temperature during infection. Ghosh (1952 a, b) studied the influence of temperature and pH on the growth of rice-inhabiting fungi. Tandon and Tandon (1953) observed the effect of sulphur drugs on the growth of *Pestalotia* spp.

3. *Sporulation*.—Sporulation in phycomycetes has been studied with reference to the genera *Phytophthora* and *Pythium*. Saksena (1937) found that development of sexual organs in *Pythium arrhenomanes* could be stimulated by use of special media. Marudharajan (1941) made observations on the production of sex organs in paired cultures of species of *Phytophthora* of the 'palmivora' group. Desai (1950) studied the relation of food to oospore production in *Phytophthora*. Damle (1953) found that the development of pronounced spines on the oogonia of *Pythium mastophorum* depended entirely on the concentration of the substrate.

Among the ascomycetes, sporulation has been studied with reference to species of yeasts, *Rosellinia*, *Chaetomium* and *Eurotium*. Subramanyam (1928) made observations on factors affecting spore formation in yeasts. Das Gupta (1936 b, 1937, 1938) studied the cultural behaviour of a species of *Rosellinia* and observed the effect of the various constituents of the substrate on the production of perithecia by this fungus. The influence of nutrient medium on the sporulation of two species of *Chaetomium* was observed by Basu (1946). Gupta (1951) investigated the effect of light and temperature on sporulation in *Eurotium herbariorum*.

S. R. Bose (1943 b) demonstrated experimentally, for the first time, that basidial transformations in Polyporaceae were controlled mainly by water-relations of the external environment. Bose (1929 a, b), Banerjee and Bakshi (1944), Chakrabarty (1941) and Banerjee and Chakravarty (1945 a, b) studied the production of fruit bodies of Polyporaceous fungi in artificial culture.

The effect of pH, various sugars and nitrogen sources on sporulation of *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* was studied by Mathur, Barnett and Lilly (1950). Mathur's (1951) study of the function of spore matrix in *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* suggested that by stimulating

asexual reproduction, the matrix in this fungus perhaps helped in the natural spread of bean-anthrax disease.

4. *Spore germination*.—Spore germination in fungi was investigated, amongst others, by Uppal (1926) who studied oxygen relations of spore germination in some species of Peronosporales, by Chowdhury (1937) who conducted experiments to study the relation of atmospheric humidity to germination of spores of several fungi, and by A. B. Bose (1942 c) who studied germination of ergot. Bhatt (1943 b) investigated the factors affecting the germination of spore balls of Bajra smut, *Tolyposporium penicillariae*. Shivapuri (1943) made a comparative study of the effect of different temperatures on the viability of uredospores of several species of *Puccinia*.

Gattani (1950 b) observed lysis in germination of uredospores of wheat rusts on media containing 1 ppm. of hydrophilic colloidal sulphur. He proposed a new term, "germinolytic", for such action of a fungicide which produces lysis of the germ tube. Gattani (1951 a) also observed some interesting deviations from the normal types, of germination of chlamydospores of *Ustilago scitiaminea* induced by varying quantities of colloidal sulphur in the medium.

5. *Nutrition*.—R. K. Saksena and his associates at the Allahabad University have made a number of contributions to the study of fungus nutrition. In 1940 he studied the nutritional requirements of several species of the genus *Pythium* (Saksena, 1940). Bhargava (1945 f) found that utilization of polysaccharides by certain species of Saprolegniaceæ was correlated with their ability to hydrolyse them. Bindal and Sreenivasaya (1945) made a quantitative study of the influence of carbohydrate/nitrogen ratio on the formation of diastase by *Aspergillus oryzae*. The influence of available carbohydrates on ammonia accumulation by *Pythium aphanidermatum* was observed by Saksena and Jain (1947 a) and that by *Penicillium notatum* was studied by Mehrotra (1949 a). Saksena and Mehrotra (1948) made observations on the carbon requirements of the genus *Pythium*. Mehrotra (1953) also studied the effect of carbon source on the assimilability of ammonium and nitrate nitrogen by *Phytophthora cactorum*.

Nitrogen nutrition of *Phytophthora phaseoli* was studied by Saksena and Bhargava (1943), that of *Pythium* by Saksena and Jain (1947 b), that of some species of Saprolegniaceæ by Bhargava (1945 g, l) and that of *Alternaria tenuis* by Srivastava (1951).

Sulphur and phosphorus requirements of some members of Saprolegniaceæ were studied by Bhargava (1945 k). Tandon (1950) investigated the sulphur requirements of two species of *Pestalotia*.

Mundkur (1928) made observations on the importance of iron for the growth of *Fusarium vasinfectum*. The production of involution forms by different yeasts in presence of mineral salts was studied by Subramanyam (1929), while the effect of vanadium on yeast cells was investigated by Sampath (1944). J. Singh (1944) observed the effect of mercury on some common fungi.

The trace element nutrition of fungi with special reference to the effect of boron, zinc and manganese on the growth of species of *Fusarium* was investigated by (Miss) Yogeswari (1948). Sadasivan (1951) reviewed the work on the role of trace elements in the control of root-infecting fungi.

6. *Vitamins—Growth Factors.*—Murdia (1939 *b*) observed that B-indolyl-3-acetic acid and Phenyl-acetic acid were of no value as growth stimulants to some species of Saprolegniaceæ. Saksena and Bhargava (1941 *a*) and Bhargava (1945 *i*) found that certain species of Saprolegniaceæ studied by him could synthesize their own thiamin, production of which was greater in darkness than in light. They also noted that while some vitamins had no effect, others even retarded the growth of these fungi.

Saksena (1939, 1941 *a, b*) found that several species of *Pythium* could manufacture their own growth-promoting substance from the elementary ingredients of the nutrient solutions in which they were grown, and that they did not require any growth supplement from extraneous sources. Similar observations were made by Saksena and Varma (1945 *c*) with reference to 15 other species of *Pythium*, and by Saksena and Dayal (1945) with reference to *Achlya dubia*, *Aphanomyces camptostylus* and *Thraustotheca clavata*. Saksena (1941 *b*) found that *Pythium indigoferæ* required an extraneous supply of a complex of growth-promoting substances for its growth. Mehrotra (1951) found that the growth of some species of *Phytophthora* was unaffected by growth factors which stimulated the growth of higher plants.

Partial vitamin deficiencies in four strains of *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* were investigated by Mathur, Lilly and Barnett (1949). Chowdhury and Kamal (1950) observed the effect of B-indol-3-acetic acid, Phenoxy-acetic acid and B-Naphthoxyacetic acid on the growth of *Alternaria tenuis*.

7. *Enzymes.*—Thakur and Norris (1927) studied the conditions under which the enzyme secreted by *Aspergillus flavus* produced ammonia from amino acids. G. Singh (1932 *b*) made observations on the cellulose decomposing power of a number of soil fungi.

Saksena and Bose (1944) investigated the enzymes of two water moulds, *Achlya dubia* and *Thraustotheca clavata*. Bhargava (1945 *h*) observed the inability of some species of Saprolegniaceæ to hydrolyse fat. Some important enzymes of *Phytophthora* spp. were investigated by Mehrotra (1949 *b*), while enzymes of some species of *Pythium* were studied by Saksena and Jafri (1950).

Based upon their enzymatic activity, the wood-destroying fungi were classified into two groups by Banerjee and Chatterjee (1945 *c*): 'white rot' fungi (which attacked both lignin and cellulose) and 'brown rot' fungi (which attacked cellulose only).

The polygalacturonase activity of three strains of *Aspergilli* was investigated by M. S. Pavgi and his associates (1951). Krishnan (1951)

described the biochemical properties of apyrases produced by *Aspergillus niger* and *Penicillium chrysogenum*.

Several important contributions have been made to the study of the enzymes of phytopathogenic fungi. The relationship of pectinase secretion by fungi to their parasitic action was investigated by Vasudeva (1930 *a*) and Chona (1932 *a*, 1933 *c*). Menon (1934) made a comparison of enzymatic extracts obtained from the various parasitic fungi. Pectinase activity of two species of *Sclerotium* was studied by Asthana (1947 *c*). The role of protopectinase in the wilt syndrome of *Verticillium*-infected cotton plants was recently worked out by Kamal (1954).

8. *Associative Effects—Antibiotics.*—Associative effects in fungi amongst themselves and with other organisms have been the subject of several studies. Vasudeva (1930 *b*, 1933, 1935 *a*) investigated the effect of one organism on the parasitic activity of the other and explained these effects on the basis of staining phenomenon. Asthana (1936) studied the antagonistic action of several fungi and their culture-filtrates on the germination, growth and parasitic vigour of *Botrytis cinerea*.

Study of growth reactions of several non-parasitic fungi in associated cultures by Sadasivan (1939 *a*) showed that the presence of a mere inoculum of one fungus may, in certain cases, modify the growth reaction of another.

Lal (1939) investigated the interaction of soil micro-organisms with *Ophiobolus graminis*, the fungus causing the take-all disease of wheat. His studies suggested that the activity of several soil micro-organisms, particularly *Trichoderma lignorum*, conditioned the percentage of recovery of the pathogen from roots subsequent to inoculation. This effect was found most marked in acid soils. Antagonistic action of *Trichoderma lignorum* on *Colletotrichum falcatum* in paired cultures was observed by Ramakrishnan (1941 *e*). Ramakrishnan (1941 *e*) also found a species of *Aspergillus* and its autoclaved extract to have a similar inhibiting effect on the cultures of *Colletotrichum falcatum*.

Antibiotic activity of several soil bacteria to *Helminthosporium sativum* and *Fusarium lini* was observed by Anwar (1949). Chakraborty and his associates (1952) observed the antibiotic activity of some fungi and actinomycetes isolated from soil.

Gupta and Price (1950) studied the production of plant virus inhibitors by fungi. They found that the extracts of *Trichothecium roseum* reduced the ineffectivity of southern bean mosaic, tobacco mosaic and tobacco necrosis viruses.

Though there have been several publications on the antibiotic activity of fungi, the antibiotics as such have received very meagre attention in this country. Bose and Choudhury (1944) isolated poly-porin from the filtrate of a culture of *Polyporus* and found the clinical trials of the crude filtrate encouraging. Gattani and Kaul (1949) devised an apparatus and conducted experiments to test the penicillin producing capacity of strains of *Penicillium* occurring in soil.

9. *Physiology of parasitism.*—An analysis of the factors underlying the specialisation of parasitism with reference to the fungi *Botrytis allii* and *Monilia fructigena* was made by Vasudeva (1930 a). He found that the effect of nitrogenous compounds in stimulating invasion by the spores of *B. allii* was parallel to its action in promoting the secretion of the pectinase enzyme by the fungus. Chona (1932 a, 1933 c) also found that the factors underlying the specialisation of parasitism of fungi infecting apple and potato were those which affected the activity of pectinase enzyme.

The physiology of parasitism by *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* was studied by Dey (1919) who found that host penetration by this pathogen was effected in a mechanical manner similar to that occurring in infection by *Botrytis cinerea*. Parasitism of *Colletotrichum indicum* infecting cotton bolls was studied by Ramakrishnan (1941 c).

The physiology of wilt diseases caused by fungi has been the subject of several studies. Mundkur (1935 c) investigated the influence of temperature and maturity of sunn-hemp and pigeon-pea on wilt caused by *Fusarium vasinfectum*. The physiology and biology of this pathogen was also studied by Uppal and Kulkarni (1937). Toxins excreted by the *Fusarium* causing cotton wilt and their influence on the host plants was studied by Kulkarni and Mundkur (1925). Vasudeva (1937 b) and Vasudeva and Ashraf (1939) studied the bearing of soil moisture and temperature on the incidence of root rot disease of cotton. Desai and Likhite (1936) and Luthra, Vasudeva and Ashraf (1940) studied the physiology of cotton wilt pathogens. Kalyanasundaram (1952) found that vascular wilts caused by *Fusarium* brought about a striking reduction in the ascorbic acid content and reducing sugars. The role of protopectinase in the wilt syndrome of *Verticillium*-infected cotton plants was recently worked out by Kamal (1954).

The influence of soil conditions on plant diseases has been investigated by several workers. The effect of manurial treatments of soil on *Rhizoctonia* infection of jute was studied by Finlow (1918), that on *Phytophthora* foot rot and leaf rot by Chowdhury (1944 c) and that on white rot of onions caused by *Sclerotium cepivorum* by Asthana (1945). Chowdhury (1948 d, e) investigated the effect of soil treatments and temperature on the wilt of *Piper betle* caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii*.

Sadasivan and his school of workers at the Madras University have carried out a series of important studies on the physiology of soil-borne diseases. The work done by this school on tropical cultivated soils in relation to soil-borne Fusarioses was recently reviewed by Sadasivan and Subramanian (1954). Studies on soil conditions and root diseases by (Miss) Sulochana (1952 a-d) showed that the colonization and survival of the various bacteria, actinomycetes and fungi (particularly Fusaria) was significantly affected by the presence of micro-elements, Zn, Mo, Li, Al, Ni, B, Co and Mn. Sulochana (1952 d) found that whereas Zn was effective in reducing the incidence of wilt caused by *Fusarium vasinfectum*, Mn considerably aggravated the incidence of wilt.

Subramanian's (1950) study of the influence of soil conditions on the wilt disease of cotton caused by *Fusarium vasinfectum* showed that microbial antagonism played a role in the colonisation of the pathogen in soil.

Agnithorudu (1953), in his study of soil conditions and root diseases, found that the rhizosphere microflora was greater than that in the control soils. The "rhizosphere effect" was found to decrease in the following order on Bacteria > Fungi > Actinomycetes. He also observed that while maximum "rhizosphere effect" on bacteria was during the time of flowering, fungal numbers increased after the flowering of crop plants.

The effect of temperature and light on the mesothetic reaction of oats to stem rust was investigated by Hingorani (1951 a).

10. *Fungus Ecology*.—Dastur (1917) made observations on the conditions influencing the distribution of potato blight in India.

During his extensive work on Indian polypores, Bose (1922 b, c) described the geographical distribution and a short history of polypores in Bengal. He also studied the high altitude (8–10,000 ft. elevation) distribution of polypores in Lokra Hills of Assam (Bose, 1935 a, b).

Competition in fungi was investigated by Sadasivan (1938). He also studied the succession of fungi decomposing wheat straw in different soils (Sadasivan, 1939 b).

Saluja (1941 a) observed the seasonal distribution of five species of *Aspergillus* isolated from the atmosphere.

Dutta and Chaudhuri (1944) made an ecological survey of fungal flora of Kellar soils and made observations on the reduction of carbohydrates by them.

CYTOLOGY OF FUNGI

Studies on the cytology of the genus *Pythium*, species of Saprolegniaceae and some related lower Phycomycetes by Saksena and his school of workers at Allahabad, studies on the cytology of polyporaceous fungi by Bose at Calcutta, and studies on the cytology of yeasts by workers in South India led by Subramaniam, and cytological study of smuts and rusts by Thirumalachar are amongst some of the principal contributions to cytological research on fungi from this country.

Saksena (1936, *et seq.*) and his associates investigated the various aspects of physiology and cytology of species of *Pythium*. In 1936, Saksena studied the structure of the nucleus in the genus *Pythium*. Saksena and Varma (1945 a) observed the action of vital dyes on *Pythium artotrogus* and *P. leucosticton*. Saksena and Varma (1945 b) also made observations on the origin and evolution of the vacuolar system of these fungi. The chondriosome system of a number of species of *Pythium* was studied by Saksena and Bose (1945 a, 1948). In his Presidential Address to the Botany Section of the 40th Session of

the Indian Science Congress at Lucknow, Saksena (1953) gave a comprehensive review of the researches on physiology and cytology of Pythiaceæ.

Saksena and Bhargava (1941 *a, b*) made observations on the cytology of *Saprolegnia delica*. The finer structure of the cilia of *Thraustotheca clavata* and its phylogenetic significance was studied by Saksena, Bhargava and Dayal (1943). Saksena and Bose (1945 *b*) observed the action of vital dyes on *Achlya dubia* and *Thraustotheca clavata*. Bhargava (1944, 1945 *a*) made observations on the fertilization and oogenesis in *Isoachlya anisospora* var. *indica*. He also investigated the formation and liberation of zoospores in this fungus (Bhargava, 1945 *b*, 1951 *a*). Bhargava (1945 *c, d, e*) carried out a series of studies on the cytology of some members of Saprolegniaceæ with regard to the action of vital dyes, the origin and development of the vacuolar system, and the temperature and chemical effects on the chondriome system. The vacuolar and mitochondrial systems in spore formation in *Thraustotheca clavata* were studied by Saksena and Bhargava (1946). Saksena, Varma and Mehrotra (1949) made observations on the vacuolar system of some members of Saprolegniaceæ and Pythiaceæ. Mehrotra (1948) studied the chondriome of 11 species of *Phytophthora*.

Thirumalachar, Whitehead and Boyle (1950) studied the gametogenesis and oospore formation in *Cystopus (Albugo) evolvuli* and it was indicated that reduction division occurred at the time of the second of the first two divisions of fusion nucleus of the young oospore. Safeulla (1953) studied the nuclear changes occurring in sporangia and oospores of species of *Albugo* occurring on *Ipomœa aquatica* and *Merremia emarginata*.

Cytology of yeasts has been the subject of several studies. Srinath (1946 *a, b*) studied the cytology of yeasts and described the chromosomes of *Saccharomyces cerevisiæ*. Naidu and Bakshi (1946) referred to the existence of uncertainty as to the exact number of chromosomes in *Saccharomyces cerevisiæ* and pointed out some discrepancy in the work of Srinath (1946 *b*). The work of M. K. Subramaniam (1945, *et seq.*) and his associates on yeast cytology is of particular significance. Subramaniam and Ranganathan (1945 *a*) investigated mitosis during budding in *Saccharomyces cerevisiæ* and reported that there were only two chromosomes, both identical in appearance. Subramaniam and Ranganathan (1945 *b*) also presented evidence suggesting that the different chromosome numbers of *S. cerevisiæ*, ranging from two to eight as observed by different workers, may perhaps involve polyploidy induced by acenaphthene employed by them in their studies. Induction of polyploidy in *S. cerevisiæ* was further investigated by Subramaniam (1945). Subramaniam (1951 *a*) replied to the technical criticism made by certain authors with regard to the induction of polyploidy and description of centrosomes and chromosomes reported earlier by Ranganathan and Subramaniam (1947). Royan and Subramaniam (1952) presented critical evidence for somatic doubling

of chromosomes in a top yeast and reiterated that somatic doubling of chromosomes was as common in yeasts as in higher plants.

Abnormal mitoses in tetraploid yeasts were studied by Subramaniam (1953). Prahlada Rao and Subramaniam (1953) noted striking differences between cytological pictures observed in cells taken from cultures on agar slants and that observed in actually proliferating yeast cells taken from well-aerated media. They emphasised that the behaviour of the yeast nucleus under aerobic proliferation alone should be taken as the standard for the evaluation of the changes under different cultural conditions (Prahlada Rao and Subramaniam, *loc. cit.*).

Cytology of smuts has been investigated by several workers. Cytology of *Tilletia tritici* was investigated by Dastur (1920 c). Das Gupta and Bhatt (1944) studied the behaviour of the nucleus in the mycelium during different phases of spore-ball formation in *Tolyposporium penicillariae*, a smut of Bajra. Bhatt (1944 b) also studied the cytology of germination of the spores of this smut. In 1948 Das studied the morphology of *Tilletia holci* and made observations on the cytology of promycelium and chlamyospore stages. Das (1949) also studied the morphology and cytology of two other Tilletiaceus smuts, *viz.*, *Entylooma microsporum* and *Urocystis anemones*. The cytology and life-history of a cypericolous *Entylooma* species was investigated by Thirumalachar and Dickson (1949).

Thirumalachar has made a number of cytological studies on rust fungi. In 1938 he described the cytology of different spore forms including germination of teleutospores of *Uromyces hobsoni*. He also described a new method of germinating and staining teleutospores of *Uromyces hobsoni* and *Hapalophragmium ponderosum* (Thirumalachar, 1940). Later he (1942 c) studied the initiation of the dicaryon phase in the aëcia of *Phragmotelium mysorensis*, a new species of rust occurring on Indian raspberry (*Rubus lassocarpus*). He also studied the morphology and cytology of the rust *Chrysocelis ascotela* comb. nov. on *Hedyotis stylosa* (Thirumalachar, 1942 a). The development of spore forms and the nuclear cycle in the autæcious rust *Cystopsora oleæ* was studied by him (Thirumalachar, 1945 d). He (Thirumalachar, 1946 d) made a cytological study of *Uromyces aloes*. The development of the teleutospores of *Ravenelia mitteri* in relation to the nuclear condition was studied by Chowdhury and Pant, in 1953.

Observations on the golgi bodies in higher fungi were made by Bose (1928 b, 1929 c). (Bose 1932 b, 1935 d) also studied the cytology of secondary spore formation in *Ganoderma* and he investigated the cytology of basidia in eleven species of *Polyporaceæ* (Bose, 1937 d).

GENETICS OF FUNGI

The principal lines of research on fungal genetics by Indian workers include the study of cultural variation, saltation, mutation and sexuality in fungi. The study of saltation in fungi by Das Gupta and the study of yeast genetics by Subramaniam and his associates are among the more outstanding contributions on the subject.

Saltation in *Colletotrichum biologicum* and in a species of *Aspergillus* was investigated by Chaudhuri (1924, 1930 d). Chaudhuri (1931 c) studied nutritive saltation in fungi and observed that unless it be a rare case of mutation, saltation was purely a nutritive phenomenon.

Mohendra (1928 b, c) studied the changes undergone by *Neocosmospora vasinfecta*, *Alternaria tenuis* and two strains of *Phoma* in artificial cultures. Mohendra (1928 a) and Mohendra and Mitra (1930) investigated cultural variation in *Sphaeropsis malorum*. M. Mitra (1930 c, 1931 b) studied saltation in the genus *Helminthosporium*. Mitter (1929 b) studied saltation in the strains of section discolor of the genus *Fusarium*. The occurrence of 'false sectors' in cultures of *Fusarium fructigenum* was studied by Vasudeva (1930 c). A. Mitra (1934 a, b) investigated saltation in six species of *Fusarium*.

Luthra and Bhandari (1932 a) studied variation in *Alternaria brassicae*. Variation in *Ascochyta rabiei* was studied by Luthra and Bedi (1937) and Luthra, Sattar and Bedi (1939). P. R. Mehta (1935 a) made a cultural study of *Acrothecium*. The effect of X-rays on *Glaeosporium* was observed by J. Singh (1933 b).

A comprehensive study of saltation in fungi, with particular reference to that occurring in *Cytosporina*, *Phomopsis* and *Diaporthe*, was made by Das Gupta (1930 *et seq.*). Horne and Das Gupta (1929) found that saltation occurring in every cultural generation of an 'eversalting' strain of *Diaporthe* was conditioned by the age of the mycelium. In *Cytosporina ludibunda*, Das Gupta (1930) observed that the occurrence of nuclear segregation at the time of pycnospore formation in pycnidia from heterokaryotic mycelium sometimes resulted in variation of characters of pycnospores from a single pycnidium. He also demonstrated the occurrence of true mutation in the ascospores of *Diaporthe pernicioso* (Das Gupta, *loc. cit.*). Das Gupta (1933 a) studied the variation in pathogenicity of saltants of *Cytosporina ludibunda* where he found the most virulent saltant of the fungus penetrating the host 50 times as quickly as the weakest sister culture. In *Diaporthe pernicioso*, Das Gupta (1934) found that single spores could give rise to really pure cultures only when the cells of the conidium contained genetically similar nuclei. Das Gupta (1934) also demonstrated the occurrence of vegetative segregation of nuclei in the heterokaryotic mycelium of *Diaporthe pernicioso*. Das Gupta's (1936 c) monograph on 'Saltation in Fungi' presents a review of the saltation phenomenon from various stand-points, discussing the types of saltation, induction of saltation by different chemical and physical agents, morphological and physiological differences between the parent and the saltants, variation in the pathogenicity of the saltants and compares saltation in fungi with the phenomenon of bud variation and chimeras in higher plants.

Among other studies on saltation in fungi, mention may be made of the work of Rafay and Padmanabhan (1941, 1947) on *Colletotrichum falcatum*, that of Ramakrishnan (1941 c) on *Colletotrichum capsici*, and that of Raychaudhuri (1947 c) on *Helminthosporium oryzae*.

In 1950, Raiay described the cultural characters of a few new types of *Physalospora tucumanensis*. Chattopadhyaya and Chakraborty (1952) studied the variations in conidial characters of strains of *Helminthosporium oryzae* collected from different parts of the world. Variability of *Sclerotinia fruticola* was studied by Thind and Keitt (1949) who found that four genetically distinct pairs could be distinguished among the monoascosporic cultures. Chona and Hingorani (1950 a) made a comparative study of three typical isolates of *Colletotrichum falcatum*. They also demonstrated mutation in some isolates of this fungus and observed that the frequency of mutation increased with the age of the cultures (Chona and Hingorani, 1950 b). Padhi (1953) made observations on *Alternaria*-like mutation of *Stemphylium* and suggested phylogenetic relationship between the two genera.

Some recent studies on fungal genetics in this country have been concerned with the investigation of yeasts. Subramaniam and Ranganathan (1947) studied the induction of mutations in yeast by low temperatures. Subramaniam and his associates, during their studies on the mutagenic action of chemical and physical agents on yeasts, observed the effect of camphor on fermenting yeast cultures (Subramaniam and Sreepathi Rao, 1952) and the effect of ultra-violet irradiation on a diploid brewery yeast (Duraismami and Subramaniam, 1952). Subramaniam (1951 b) made observations on the genetical aspects of the relation between nature and nurture yeasts.

An analytical study of the phenomenon of long term adaptation of *Saccharomyces* to galactose was made by Mundkur and Lindegren (1949). Lindegren and Lindegren (1951) contributed a paper to the 'Indian Phytopathology' on the 'Linkage relations in *Saccharomyces* of genes controlling the fermentation of carbohydrates and the synthesis of vitamins, amino acids and nucleic acid components'.

Sex phenomenon in fungi has been the subject of several studies. Heterothallism in a species of *Mucor* was studied by Ajrekar and Dharmarajulu (1929) and that in *Phytophthora arecae* and several other strains by Narasimhan (1930). S. R. Bose (1933 b) made observations on the theories of sex in fungi in the light of his work on polypores. Mitter (1936), in his Presidential Address to the Indian Botanical Society, discussed heterothallism in fungi. Vaheeduddin (1937) carried out intergeneric hybridization between *Sphacelotheca cruenta* (loose smut of *Sorghum*) and *Sorosporium reilianum* (head smut of *Sorghum*) and found that the hybrid was fertile and heterothallic. Hingorani (1951 b) carried out selfing studies with race 7 of *Puccinia graminis avenae* with a view to furnish an indication of what might happen in nature when races infect barberry and thus enable one to predict to a certain extent the pathogenic characteristics of new races that might be expected to arise in nature from new combination. His results indicated that the race 7 was relatively homozygous with respect to factors for pathogenicity. A paper on the significance of some sexual phenomena in fungi was contributed by Whitehouse (1951) in the 'Indian Phytopathology'.

FUNGUS DISEASES OF PLANTS

The large variety of fungus diseases of plants, particularly those of agricultural crops, play an important role in the national economy. No adequate economic survey of losses caused by fungal pathogens in India is available, but it is estimated that the loss due to one disease alone, viz., the wheat rust, runs into Rs. 60,000,000. In a predominantly agricultural country like India, therefore, phytopathological research assumes particular significance. Chaudhuri (1936 *a*) outlined the need for the control of plant diseases and suggested a scheme for dissemination of phytopathological knowledge to the cultivators. Dastur (1947), reviewing the place of mycology in the economic development of India, referred to the role of fungi as pathogens of plants and animals.

A short history of phytopathology and plant disease control methods practised in ancient India was presented by Chaudhuri (1934 *a*). The modern organised study of fungus diseases of plants in this country, however, dates from the time of arrival of Butler. Butler's (1918) treatise on 'Fungi and Disease in Plants' presents the first consolidated and comprehensive account of the fungus diseases investigated in India during the first two decades of the present century. A more recent account of the principal fungus diseases of plants occurring in India was presented by Mundkur (1949). Sattar and Hafiz (1952) published a monograph embodying the "Researches on Plant Diseases in the Punjab". The present review, outlines very briefly the studies on plant diseases caused by the various groups of fungi.

(*a*) Diseases caused by *Phycomycetes*.—Among *Phycomycetes*, a number of species of chytrids causing plant diseases of little or no economic importance have been recorded from this country. Among these, mention may be made of *Oipidiopsis minor* and *O. schenkiana* parasitic on *Achlya polyandra* and *Spirogyra* respectively (Butler, 1907 *a*); a species of *Myzocyttium* parasitic on *Spirogyra* (Chaudhuri, 1931 *a*); *Chytridium olla* parasitic on *Oedogonium* sp., and *Lagenidium entophyllum*, *Entophlyctis bulligera* and *Aphanomyces apophysii* on *Spirogyra* (Lacy, 1949). Lacy (1950 *a*) also described four new species of *Synchytrium* parasitic on higher plants. A new species of *Synchytrium*, viz., *S. phaseoli*, was found by Patel, Kulkarni and Dhande (1949 *a*) to cause a severe defoliation of plants of *Phaseolus mungo*. Payak (1951) found *Synchytrium ajrekari* to cause a severe infection of leaves of udid beans. An interesting case of hyperparasitism was observed by Thirumalachar (1942 *h*) in the infection of urediospores of *Hemileia canthii* by *Olpidium uredinis*. Thirumalachar (1948 *b*) also recorded some chytrid-caused diseases of several species of Bryophytes. He (Thirumalachar, 1949 *a*) found *Physoderma limnanthemii* sp. nov. to produce galls on leaves of *Limnanthemum indicum*. *Physoderma aeschynomensis* was found to incite the formation of large galls on the submerged parts of *Aeschynomene indica*, the pith plant (Thirumalachar and Whitehead, 1951).

Species of *Pythium* cause a number of diseases of economically important plants. McRae (1911) studied the soft rot of ginger caused

by *P. gracile*. Diseases caused by *P. deBaryanum* were described by Butler (1913 b). Foot rot of sugarcane caused by *P. deBaryanum* was studied by Ramakrishnan (1941 a). *Pythium* diseases of ginger, tobacco and papaya were studied by Subramaniam (1919). He also described wheat-root rot caused by *P. graminicolum* (Subramaniam, 1928). *Pythium aphanidermatum* has been found to cause a number of diseases, including fruit rot of cultivated cucurbits (Mitra, 1927 a; Mitra and Subramaniam, 1928), wet rot of cladodes of *Opuntia dillenii* (Ayyar, 1929), stem and foot rot of *Carica papaya* (Bhargava, 1941), collar rot of pigeon pea (Malik, 1945), damping-off of cabbage, cauliflower and knolkhol (Mahmud, 1950 b), and damping-off of tomato seedlings (Gattani and Kaul, 1951). Verma (1946) described a soft rot of radish caused by a species of *Pythium*. Singh (1946) reported a *Pythium* collar-rot of field pea. Fruit rot of *Hibiscus esculentus* due to *Pythium indicum* was investigated by Balakrishnan (1948 a). T. S. Ramakrishnan (1949 b) studied the occurrence of *Pythium vexans* in South India where it has been observed to cause diseases of ginger, cardamom, *Pelargonium*, cinchona and apple trees.

Species of *Phytophthora* cause a number of important diseases of palms in this country, including the 'koleroga' or 'mahali' disease of betel palms (Butler, 1906 c; Sunderaraman and Ramakrishnan, 1924; Venkatarayan, 1932, Uppal and Desai, 1939); bud rot of palmyra palms (Butler, 1906 c; McRae, 1912); bud rot of coconut palms (Shaw and Sunderaraman, 1914 a, b; Sunderaraman, 1924). McRae (1923 a, b) showed that the pathogen, *Phytophthora palmivora*, causing bud rot of both palmyra and coconut palms, could pass from one host to the other. The relationship between the *Phytophthora* associated with the bud rot of palms was studied by Gadd (1927). *P. palmivora* has also been found to cause the gummosis of Citrus trees (Kamat, 1927 a, b; Uppal and Kamat, 1936), seedling blight of *Cinchona ledgeriana* (Kheswalla, 1935), leaf fall and fruit rot of oranges (Devarajan and Aiyappa, 1944), seedling blight of *Hibiscus esculentus* (Balakrishnan, 1947 b) and safflower (Balakrishnan and Krishnamurthy, 1947), and fruit rot of tomatoes (Ramakrishnan and Soumini, 1947 b).

Phytophthora disease of the para rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*, was investigated by Dastur (1916 a) and McRae (1918 b, 1919). McRae (1918 a) described the pathogen as a new species, *Phytophthora meadii*.

Butler and Kulkarni (1913) investigated the leaf blight and corm rot of *Colocasia antiquorum* caused by *Phytophthora colocasiae*.

Dastur (1913) described a new species, *Phytophthora parasitica*, causing seedling blight of castor oil plant. *P. parasitica* has been found to cause diseases of a number of other plants, including *Vinca rosea* (Dastur, 1916 b) and *Boucerosia diffusa* (Agharkar and Banerjee, 1932 a), damping-off of cotton seedlings and fruit rot of guava (Mitra, 1929), and black shank of tobacco (Mundkur, 1937), foot rot and leaf rot of *Piper betle* (Dastur, 1935; Chowdhury, 1944 c; Asthana, 1947 d), and heart or stem rot and wilt of pineapple (Chowdhury, 1945 c, 1946 b).

Dastur (1915 a) reported that potato blight due to *Phytophthora infestans*, though not common in the Indian plains, was found in the hills. This disease causes severe damage to crops grown in hills at an elevation of 6,000 ft. and above. In Simla hills where potato crop becomes badly damaged every year by *P. infestans*, Dastur (1948) discovered two new diseases of potato, viz., leaf rot caused by a species not much different from *P. parasitica* and tuber rot caused by a new species, *P. himalayensis*. Lal (1948) listed the reports of occurrence of potato blight in the plains of India. The occurrence of this disease in the plains of U.P. and Bihar was surveyed by Vasudeva and Azad (1949 a).

White rust of crucifers, *Cystopus candidus*, occurs as a common disease of cabbage, turnip, mustard and radish, but, as Mundkur (1949) pointed out, the modes of perpetuation and transmission of the disease and its predisposing factors have been only little investigated. Besides *C. candidus* and *C. ipomoeae panduratae* on *Ipomoea pestigridis* (Verma, 1937), several new species have been reported including *C. evolvuli* on *Evolvulus alsinoides* (Damle, 1943), *C. intermediatus* on *Cardamine submellata* (Damle, 1944) and *C. molluginicola* on *Mollugo nudicaulis* (Ramakrishnan and Ramakrishnan, 1950 b). Kar (1951) studied the occurrence of white rust (*Albugo* sp.) on *Amaranthus polygamus* and found that the disease incidence was strictly influenced by atmospheric temperature. He also suggested that oospores, which were plentiful and whose external appearance indicated that they may withstand unfavourable conditions and pass through a resting stage, could be the probable source of infection.

Green ear disease of bajra (*Pennisetum typhoideum*) caused by *Sclerospora graminicola* has been the subject of several studies. Uppal and Kamat (1928) accomplished artificial infection of the disease under very humid conditions. The occurrence of physiologic specialisation in *S. graminicola* was indicated from the studies of Uppal and Desai (1932 a) who found that while one race of the pathogen was restricted to *Pennisetum typhoideum*, the other race occurred on species of *Setaria*. A survey of the green ear disease of bajra in low lying bajra fields by Mitter and Tandon (1930 b) at Allahabad showed heavy incidence of green ear disease, whereas in fields at higher levels the incidence was very low. Studies by Chaudhuri (1928, 1932 b, f) showed that the oospores in the soil were responsible for the propagation of the disease. Studies in the green ear disease of bajra were carried out by Rai (Unpublished) with reference to the disease incidence in fields at high and low levels, factors affecting germination of oospores of the pathogen, and the effect of growing bajra in infected fields for successive years.

The downy mildew of maize caused by *Sclerospora maydis* was investigated by Butler (1913 a). The production of oospores by *Sclerospora sorghi* on maize was studied by Patel (1949 a, b).

The downy mildew of jowar (*Sorghum vulgare*), formerly considered to be a variety of *Sclerospora graminicola* (Kulkarni, 1913), was

described as a distinct species, *S. sorghi*, by Weston and Uppal (1932). Ayyangar and Hariharan (1934) reported the suppression of the awn in *Sorghum* due to *Sclerospora* disease. The occurrence of the green ear stage in *Sorghum* was described by Patel and his associates (1950).

P. R. Mehta (1937, 1939) studied the fruit rot of apples caused by a species of *Rhizopus* and observed that the optimum pH range of the fungus, 4.2 to 5.0, compared with the pH of the green and ripe apples which was found to be 4.2 and 5.2 respectively.

Chowdhury (1949) investigated a rot of male inflorescence and young fruits of *Artocarpus integrifolia* caused by *Rhizopus artocarpi*.

A new disease of chillies caused by *Choanephora cucurbitarum* was described by Dastur (1920 b). The characters of this pathogen, *C. cucurbitarum*, causing wet rot of chillies were studied by Sinha (1940 a). Sinha (1939 b, 1940 b) also studied the wet rot of leaves of *Colocasia antiquorum* due to secondary infection by *C. cucurbitarum* and *C. trispora*; he reduced the name *C. trispora* to synonymy with *Blakeslea trispora*.

(b) *Diseases caused by Ascomycetes*.—Among Ascomycetes species of Taphrinales cause a few diseases of economic plants. Butler (1911 b; 1918) described the leaf spot of turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) due to *Taphrina maculans*. This disease is often responsible for considerable damage in the turmeric growing areas of Gujarat, Madras, Hyderabad and Orissa (Mundkur, 1949). Butler (1918) also described the disease of *Coriandrum sativum* where galls are formed due to infection by *Frotomyces macrosporus*. Peach leaf curl caused by *Taphrina deformans* is of common occurrence in the Kumaon, Kulu and other parts of the sub-Himalayan range. Hafiz (1947) investigated the occurrence of this disease in the hilly tracts of the Punjab.

Aspergilli are reported to cause a number of diseases including soft rot of apples (Dey and Nigam, 1933) and pears (Prasad, 1938), storage rot of onions (Likhite and Desai, 1935; Venkatarayan and Delvi, 1951 a), latent infection and rot of mango fruits (Das Gupta and Bhatt, 1946 b; Verma and Kamal, 1951), and latent infection of fruits of *Aegle marmelos* (Sharma, 1953 a). Soft rot of apple fruit caused by *Penicillium expansum* was studied by Singh (1941 b). Saluja (1941 b) studied *Penicillia* causing rots of animals and fruits.

Powdery mildew epiphytotic on peas (*Pisum sativum*) due to *Erysiphe polygoni* occur every year during winters in this country. The disease was described in detail by Butler (1918). Uppal, Kamat and Patel (1936) described a new variety of *Oidiopsis taurica* causing powdery mildew of *Dolichos lablab*. Some new hosts of *Oidiopsis taurica* were reported by Kamat and Patel (1948). Powdery mildew of betel vines caused by a new species of *Oidium* was investigated by Uppal and Kamat (1937). Uppal, Kamat and Patel (1946) suggested the dusting of betel vines with sulphur powder to check this disease.

The annual recurrence of powdery mildew, *Erysiphe graminis*, on wheat and barley was investigated by Mehta (1930 *a, b, c*) who observed that the mode of dissemination and recurrence of cereal powdery mildew was identical with that of cereal rusts.

Butler (1907 *c*) described the powdery mildew of grape vines. Uppal, Cheema and Kamat (1931) investigated the powdery mildew of grape and its control in Bombay. The cleistothecial stage of this pathogen, *Uncinula necator*, though not formed in the plains, is stated to form in abundance in conditions obtaining in Baluchistan (Mundkur, 1949).

Devarajan (1946) investigated the powdery mildew of oranges due to *Oidium* sp. and suggested methods of controlling the disease. A powdery mildew of cotton (*Gossypium barbadense*) caused by *Oidiopsis gossypii* was studied by Raychaudhuri (1949). Bose (1953 *a*) studied the occurrence of powdery mildew of mango due to *Oidium mangiferae* at altitudes of 2-400 ft. in Kumaon hills. He suggested several fungicides, of which Peronex was found to be most effective in controlling the disease.

The biological and cultural characters of *Capnodium* sp. on cotton were studied by Sawhney (1926, 1927) who concluded that the action of this species of *Capnodium* was not 'purely saprophytic' but parasitic also. The sooty mould disease of Citrus in Kumaon and its control was studied by Bose (1953 *d*) who referred to the fungus as *Microzyphium* sp., the perfect stage *Chaetothyrrium citri* of which was found associated with two types of flies.

Butler (1906 *a*, 1918) described the black rot of sugarcane caused by *Sphaeronema adiposum*; the pathogen was later shown to belong to the genus *Ceratostomella* by Sartoris (1927) who named it as *C. adiposum*. Another species of *Ceratostomella*, *C. paradoxa* (= *Thielaviopsis paradoxa*) was found to infect sugarcane, coconut and pineapple (Ramakrishnan, 1927). Stem-end rot and soft rot of pineapple caused by *C. paradoxa* was studied by P. R. Mehta (1940) and Chowdhury (1945 *d*).

Ajrekar (1926 *b*) made observations on the ergot disease of jowar (*Sorghum vulgare*) caused by *Sphacelia* (the conidial stage of *Claviceps*). Kulkarni (1942) reported that considerable damage was caused by ergot if the crop was late sown. Thirumalachar (1943 *c*) studied the ergot on sugarcane. Later he reported profuse infection of spikelets of *Cynodon dactylon* by a species of *Claviceps* (1944 *a*). Thomas, Ramakrishnan and Srinivasan (1945 *a, b*) surveyed the natural occurrence of ergot in South India. In 1950 Marudrajan and his associates studied the problems of ergot production and its improvement.

Species of *Sclerotinia* cause a number of diseases. Stem-end rot of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* caused by *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* was investigated by Mundkur (1934 *a*) who found that the mycelium of the fungus

was unable to infect the plants, only the ascospores being capable of attacking the tender tissue of the host. He also emphasized the role of sclerotia in the perpetuation of the disease. Stem rot of tobacco caused by *S. sclerotiorum* was studied by Kheswalla (1934). Mehta, Singh and Bose (1946) reported some new hosts of this pathogen. A destructive disease of peach plum, apples and pears caused by *Sclerotinia fructigena* was investigated by Hafiz (1946). Narasimhan (1952) reported a sclerotial disease of *Orobanche cernua*.

(c) *Diseases caused by Basidiomycetes*: (i) *Ustilaginales*.—The more common and economically important smut and bunt diseases occurring in this country have been described by Butler (1918) and Mundkur (1949).

Wheat crops all over the country are affected by loose smut caused by *Ustilago tritici*. Loss due to wheat loose smut, according to one estimate, is stated to amount to over Rs. 50,000,000 (Luthra, 1933). A number of studies have been made with reference to control measures against this disease (Mohendra, 1930; Luthra, *loc. cit.*; Luthra and Sattar, 1934 *a, b*; Patel, Dhande and Kulkarni, 1950). The varietal resistance of Indian and other wheats to loose smut was investigated by Mundkur and Pal (1941).

Butler (1908 *b*) recorded the occurrence of two wheat bunts, *Tilletia tritici* and *T. levis* (now referred to as *T. caries* and *T. foetida* respectively). Mitra (1931 *a*) reported a new bunt of wheat, *Tilletia indica* sp. nov. (transferred to *Neovossia indica* by Mundkur). A comparative study of the three wheat bunts (*T. caries*, *T. foetida* and *Neovossia indica*) was made by Mitra (1935 *a*). He studied the effect of the 'karnal' bunt (*Neovossia indica*) on wheat (Mitra, 1937 *b, d*). He also studied the mode of transmission of this bunt and reported the occurrence of soil infection (Mitra, 1937 *a, d*). Mundkur (1943 *a, b*), however showed that this disease was not seed- or soil-borne. He also pointed out that unlike most smut and bunt infections, the 'Karnal' bunt of wheat was not a systemic infection. Investigations by Bedi, Sikka and Mundkur (1949) confirmed that this bunt was not seed- or soil-borne.

Mundkur (1934 *c*) reported that *Ustilago kolleri* causing covered smut of oats (*Avena sativa*) appeared to be more prevalent than *U. avenae* causing loose smut in this country. Oat leaf infection by *U. avenae* was studied by Mundkur (1935 *d*).

Ramakrishnan and Reddy (1949) showed that infection of *Sorghum* with long smut occurred through young flowers. The work of Vasudeva and Seshadri Iyengar (1950 *b*) confirmed that this disease was air-borne and that infection took place when the flowers were still very young.

Vaheeduddin (1950) recorded the occurrence of two new physiologic races of *Sphacelotheca sorghi* and presented a key for identifying eight physiologic forms of this grain smut of *Sorghum*.

The bunt of rice caused by *Neovossia horrida* is widespread in Assam and was investigated by Chowdhury (1946 c, 1951). A six-year survey of the disease made by him showed that it causes only negligible damage since only a very low percentage of the plants are attacked and only a few grains in an ear are usually affected. He also reported that the disease was influenced by the climatic conditions and that the infection occurred through flowers.

Ajrekar and Likhite (1933) reported that in wet years appreciable damage was caused by smut of bajra (*Pennisetum typhoideum*) due to *Tolyposporium penicillariae*. A comprehensive study of the mode of infection of bajra plant by this smut was made by Bhatt (1944 a, 1946). An interesting aspect of this study refers to the path of the infection hypha inside the bajra plant (Bhatt, 1946). Vasudeva and Seshadri Iyengar (1950 a) reported the occurrence of secondary infection in the bajra smut disease caused by *Tolyposporium*. He found that the smut spore oalls could germinate immediately on the host without undergoing a dormancy period, and caused secondary infection.

A serious smut disease of Job's tears millet (*Coix lachryma jobi*) due to *Ustilago coicis* was described by Chowdhury (1946 d) from Khasi Hills, Assam. The transmission of this disease was found to occur through seed-borne spores.

Thirumalachar and Mundkur (1947) investigated the morphology and the mode of transmission of the ragi (*Eleusine coracana*) smut caused by *Melanopsichium eleusinis*.

Mundkur (1943 c) reported that sawan (*Echinochloa frumentacea*) was attacked by two smuts, *Ustilago panic-frumentaci* and *U. paradoxa*. The life-history and mode of infection of sawan smut due to *U. paradoxa* was comprehensively studied by Sharma (1953 b). Venkatarayan and Delvi (1951 b) reported that occurrence of *U. crusgalli* on *Echinochloa colona*.

Butler (1918) described the smut disease of sugarcane caused by *Ustilago sacchari* (transferred to *U. scitaminea* by Sydow in 1924). The mode of infection of sugarcane smut studied by Dastur (1920 a). Luthra, Sattar and Sandhu (1938) investigated the life-history and the modes of perpetuation of the sugarcane smut caused by *U. scitaminea*. The occurrence of this disease in Bihar was studied by Rafay and Padmanabhan (1940).

Khanna and Ramanathan (1946) recorded for the first time the occurrence of a *Sphacelotheca* sp. on a species of *Saccharum* by reporting the infection of 'Munj' grass (*Saccharum munja*) due to *Sphacelotheca schweinfurthiana*. The first record of a *Sphacelotheca* sp. on sugarcane was made by Chona and Munjal (1951) who reported the occurrence of a new smut, *Sphacelotheca cruenta* on sugarcane.

Mitra (1927 b, 1928) studied the gall formation in the root of mustard (*Brassica campestris* var. *sarson*) due to a smut *Urocystis*

coralloides. Host range and identity of the smut causing root galls in the genus *Brassica* was investigated by Mundkur (1938 *a, b*) who found it to be different from *U. coralloides* and proposed a new name for it, *brassicae*.

(ii) *Uredinales*.—Tremendous losses are caused by cereal rust epiphytotic that recur every year in India. Studies on their epidemiology and the methods of their control comprise some of the most important phytopathological researches carried out in this country.

Milligan (1907) reported a heavy outbreak of rust on wheat in Punjab and ascribed the "heavy infection of the rust to the weakening of the plants due to inclement weather".

A comprehensive investigation of the wheat rust problem in India was carried out by K. C. Mehta and his school of workers. Mehta started his work on the problems of annual recurrence of cereal rust at Cambridge in 1920 and on his return to India he continued this study for the next three decades. Under a scheme financed by the Imperial (now Indian) Council of Agricultural Research, he and his associates collected a large amount of elaborate epidemiological data derived from a phytopathological investigation and aerobiological survey. Some conclusions based on these data have been the subject of controversy among certain sections of phytopathologists in this country. Mehta (1929, 1931 *a, b*, 1937, 1941) showed that *Berberis* and other alternate hosts do not play any significant role in the perpetuation of wheat rusts in India, and that there is no local source of infection for the recurrence of rust in the plains where the intense summer heat destroys all the rust inoculum of the preceding season. He presented evidence to show that the principal source of inoculum responsible for fresh outbreaks of rust epiphytotic in the plains was derived from the rust infection on the summer-grown wheat crop in the hills. He suggested the cessation of wheat cultivation in the hills for a period of five years as a measure to check the recurrence of rust in the plains where the major bulk of the wheat crop is grown.

Prasada contributed a number of interesting studies on the role of alternate hosts of cereal rusts in this country. Prasada (1946) reported that aeciospores of rust found on *Thalictrum* in Simla hills could infect *Agropyron semicostatum* resulting in the production of the uredo-stage of the rust. This rust, however, was found to be unable to infect wheat and barley seedlings. Later, he (1947 *d*) discovered the uredo-stage connected with aecidia commonly found on species of *Berberis* and showed that it was a new specialised form of *P. graminis*, which he described under the name *P. graminis agropyri*. He reported that aeciospores of this rust were unable to infect wheat, barley, oats and rye, though it could infect three species of *Agropyron* leading to the production of its uredo-stage. Prasada (1948 *a*, 1951) investigated the pathogenicity of rusts occurring on wild grasses growing in the neighbourhood of wheat plots in Simla. He reported that cross-inoculations on reciprocal hosts with yellow rust (*P. glumarum*)

occurring on *Phalaris minor* and that on wheat plants were unsuccessful. On the other hand, black rust (*P. graminis*) from some exotic grasses could infect wheat plants and *vice versa*. In the light of these findings, Prasada (1951) suggested that it was very essential to test the reaction of the imported grasses to Indian physiologic races of wheat rusts under quarantine conditions prior to their release for general cultivation in this country, as these may act as collateral or alternate hosts of wheat rusts.

The effect of brown rust infection on the growth, yield and water economy of resistant and susceptible varieties of wheats was studied by Pal (1936 a). Ekbote and Kalamkar (1945, 1947) studied the damage to the wheat crop by rust in relation to variety and time of sowing. Studies on physiologic specialisation in *Puccinia graminis tritici* were carried out by Uppal and Gokhale (1947) and Gokhale (1950).

Dastur and Pal (1947) briefly reviewed the problem of wheat rusts and their control. The control of wheat rusts by breeding resistant varieties was discussed by Pal (1948). De Quadros (1952) suggested mixed cropping of wheat and gram as an insurance against wheat rusts. Gattani (1952) reported that spraying plants with hydrophobic colloidal sulphur provided a fairly efficient method of control of wheat rusts.

Ramakrishnan and Soumini carried out a series of studies on cereal rusts including *Puccinia penniseti* occurring on *Pennisetum typhoides* (Ramakrishnan and Soumini, 1948 b), *Uromyces setariae-italicae* on *Setaria italica* (Ramakrishnan, 1949) and *Puccinia purpurea* on *Sorghum* (Soumini, 1949).

The linseed rust, *Melampsora lini*, was investigated by Prasada (1940, 1947 a, 1948 c). He described the life-history of this rust and discussed the problem of its over-summering. Studies on lentil rust, *Uromyces fabae*, by Prasada and Varma (1948), and on clover rust, *Uromyces trifolii*, by Prasada and Goswami (1950) showed that teliospores of these rusts remained viable through the summer and caused fresh outbreaks in the following season when the weather conditions were favourable.

The coffee leaf rust, *Hemileia vestatrix*, was first reported from Ceylon in 1868 and within next dozen years the rapidity of its spread and severity of the damage caused by it led to the total abandonment of coffee cultivation in that country. The coffee rust was first recorded in 1870 from India. Mundkur (1949) presents a brief account of the disease and the factors that contributed to the survival of coffee cultivation in this country. A great deal of work on the disease has been carried out by the workers of the Mysore Department of Agriculture and the Planters' Association in Southern India. Studies in physiologic variation in the coffee rust, and the development of resistant varieties of coffee, have been carried out at the Coffee Experiment Station in Mysore. Some observations on varietal resistance to rust of coffee were made by Thomas (1927).

(iii) *Homobasidiomycetes*.—Several species of polypores have been reported to cause diseases of forest trees. Mayes (1905) recorded *Trametes pini* as a wound parasite of *Pinus excelsa*. Butler (1909) reported the occurrence of *Fomes lucidus* as a suspected parasite on *Abies*, *Tsuga* and many other broad-leaved trees. The pathogenicity of *Polyporus gilvus*, a suspected parasite of shisham (*Dalbergia sisso*) was studied by Khan (1923). Sen-Gupta (1932) reported that the action of *Polyporus zonalis* on bamboo was one of delignification and absorption of starch grains from the cells of the host.

Research in forest pathology was initiated by Bagchee at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. In 1939, Bagchee reviewed the investigation on the various tree diseases and the problems associated with coniferous rusts, root- and stem-rotting fungi, canker pathogens, nursery diseases, timber diseases, and the ecology and habits of forest fungi. He also listed rusts and polypores attacking forest trees. The principal diseases and decays of oaks in India caused by several species of polyporaceous fungi were studied by Bakshi and Bagchee (1950). In 1951 Bagchee and Bakshi described the rot of pine-wood (*Pinus longifolia*) by *Poria monticola*.

Among the agarics, *Schizophyllum commune* was found to grow parasitically on big trees in Lahore by Chaudhuri and Johar (1931 a, 1934). Lacy (1950 b) reported the occurrence of *Marasmius rotula* as a mild parasite on *Derris sinuata*.

Species of *Pellicularia* and their respective *Rhizoctonia*-stages cause a number of important plant diseases. The morphology and parasitism of Indian species of *Rhizoctonia* was investigated by Shaw (1912) and Shaw and Ajrekar (1915). The life-history of *Corticium koleroga* causing black rot of coffee was studied by Narasimhan (1933 a, c). Dastur (1941) investigated the pink disease of orange trees due to *Corticium salmonicolor* in Central India and suggested control measures. Singh (1943 a) studied the pink disease of apples due to *C. salmonicolor* in Kumaon.

(d) *Diseases caused by Deuteromycetes*.—Large number of plant diseases in India, many of which are of considerable economic importance, are caused by deuteromycete pathogens. Lack of space makes it imperative for this review to mention in passing the work on no more than a few diseases of some economic plants only. Diseases of a very few ornamental and fruit trees are also included.

Leaf-spot disease of wheat due to *Helminthosporium tritici-repentis* was studied by M. Mitra (1934 a). Padwick (1940 c) investigated the foot rot of wheat caused by *Fusarium* species. The black point disease of wheat caused by *Alternaria tenuis* was reported by Tandon (1946) and Tandon, Das and Srivastava (1953).

Leaf-spot of rice caused by *Helminthosporium oryzae*, which is of common occurrence in India, was studied by Sundararaman (1922)

and Singh (1934 *a*). The nature and extent of damage caused by this disease was investigated by Padmanabhan, Roy Choudhry and Ganguly (1948), while Chattopadhyay (1952 *c*) made trials for its control. Among other diseases of rice, mention may be made of the 'Stackburn' of rice caused by *Trichoconis padwickii* (Padwick and Ganguly, 1945; Padmanabhan, 1949) and seedling blight of rice caused by *Curvularia lunata* and *Helminthosporium* spp. (Hingorani and Prasad, 1951; Salam and Rao, 1953).

The sclerotial disease of rice caused by *Sclerotium oryzae* (= *Leptosphaeria salvinii*) was studied by Shaw (1913 *b*), Pushkar Nath (1933 *b*), Mundkur (1935 *a, b*), Hidayatullah and Raychaudhuri (1941) and by Paracer and Luthra (1944).

A common wilt disease of pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) in India is caused by *Fusarium udum* (Butler, 1906 *b*, 1918; Mohanty, 1946). Sarojini (1951) reported that in the field survival and persistence of *Fusarium udum* was related to the presence of certain micronutrients in the soil. Kalyanasundaram (1952) reported that there was a considerable reduction of ascorbic acid content in plants affected by *F. udum*. The effect of associated microflora on the pathogenicity of *F. udum* was studied by Vasudeva and Govindaswamy (1953).

The blight of gram caused by *Ascochyta rabiei* (= *Mycosphaerella rabiei*) was investigated by Butler (1918), Luthra and Bedi (1932), and Luthra, Sattar and Bedi (1935). Luthra, Sattar and Bedi (1943) suggested methods of controlling the disease.

Red rot caused by *Colletotrichum falcatum* (= *Physalospora tucumanensis*) is a serious disease of sugarcane. It was studied by Butler and Khan (1913 *a*) at Pusa. Luthra and Singh (1932 *b*) and Rafay and Padmanabhan (1947) studied the cultural variation in this pathogen. A series of detailed studies on red rot of sugarcane have been carried out by Chona (1943 *a*, 1947, 1950) with reference to the mode and sources of infection, varietal resistance and control measures.

Among the other diseases of sugarcane mention may be made of wilt caused by *Cephalosporium sacchari*, collar rot caused by *Hendersonia sacchari*, and Helminthosporiose caused by *Helminthosporium sacchari* (Butler and Khan, 1913 *b*), stem canker caused by *Cytospora sacchari* (Luthra and Singh, 1938) and top rot caused by *Fusarium moniliforme* (Ramakrishnan, 1941 *b* and Rafay, 1952).

An important root rot disease of cotton due to *Rhizoctonia solani* and *R. bataticola* was investigated by a number of workers including Likhite (1932 *b*, 1935 *a*), Likhite and Kulkarni (1934). Vasudeva and his associates (1935-45) carried out a series of comprehensive studies on this disease with reference to its symptomatology, incidence and etiology (Vasudeva, 1935 *b*), the physiology of the causal fungi (Vasudeva, 1936), the effect of mixed cropping on the incidence of the disease (Luthra and Vasudeva, 1940; Vasudeva, 1941), and the effect of certain

fungi on the growth of cotton root rot fungi (Vasudeva and Sikka, 1941). Vasudeva (1943; 1945) made attempts to control the disease by varying the sowing date, and by fumigation and various cultural treatments of the soil. Studies on cotton root rot in Sind were carried out by Prasad (1944).

Another important disease of cotton (which is confined to the black cotton soils of Southern India) is cotton wilt. There has been a certain amount of controversy with reference to the cause of this disease. Kottur (1924) reported that the wilt of cotton was caused by a species of *Fusarium* which was identified as *F. vasinfectum* by Elliot (1924). Dastur (1924, 1931), on the other hand, stated that the accumulation of aluminium and iron compounds in the vessels of cotton plants was the primary cause of this disease and regarded *F. vasinfectum* as only a secondary factor. Butler (1926), Ajrekar (1926 a), Kulkarni (1931, 1934) and Kulkarni and Mundkur (1925, 1931 a, b) confirmed the pathogenicity of *F. vasinfectum* in cotton wilt under certain unelucidated conditions which, according to them, were probably not related to soil composition as suggested by Dastur. Satyanarayana and Kalyanasundaram (1952) studied the varietal susceptibility of cotton plants to wilt disease. Kalyanasundaram (1952) investigated the change in ascorbic acid content of wilted cotton plants. Variation in *F. vasinfectum* was recorded by Subramanian (1952 f).

The stem rot of jute caused by *Macrophoma corchori* (= *Macrophomina phaseoli*) was investigated by Shaw (1924). Rajan and Patel (1946) established the seed transmission of this pathogen and studied the effect of the disease on the quality and output of jute. Chattopadhyay and his associates (1952) made observations on the incidence and control of this disease.

Of the diseases of potato, early blight caused by *Alternaria solani* is common in India. It was investigated by Butler (1918) and Bhagwagar (1946). The fungicidal control of this disease was studied by Vasudeva and Azad (1952) and Chattopadhyay (1952 b). Another important disease of potato is tuber rot by *Fusarium* sp. (Ajrekar and Kamat, 1923; Chona, 1933 a; and Sattar and Hafiz, 1943). Agarwala (1949) investigated the mode of infection of potatoes by *F. oxysporum*. The charcoal rot of potatoes due to *Macrophomina phaseoli* was studied by Thirumalachar (1952).

The 'Tikka disease' of groundnuts (*Arachis hypogea*) caused by *Cercospora personata* (= *Septoglæum arachidis*) was investigated by Butler (1914 a, 1918). Mundkur (1949) reported that leaf-spots in *Arachis hypogea* were also caused by another species, *Cercospora arachinidicola* which produced symptoms distinct from those caused by *C. personata*. Among the other diseases of oil-yielding plants, mention may be made of blight of linseed (*Linum usitatissimum*) caused by *Alternaria lini* (Dey, 1933), blight of 'Til' (*Sesamum orientale*) caused by *Cercospora sesami* (Chowdhury, 1945 e) and leaf-spot disease of

castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) caused by *Phyllosticta bosensis* (Bose and Mathur, 1949).

The root rot of *Piper betle* caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* was investigated by McRae (1934) and Chowdhury (1944 *b, c*). Chowdhury (1945 *a*, 1946 *f*, 1948 *c*) studied the effect of soil conditions on the sclerotial wilt of *Piper betle* caused by *Sclerotium rolfsii* (= *Corticium rolfsii*).

Deuteromycete diseases of tea (*Thea sinensis*) reported from India include the grey blight caused by *Pestalozzia theæ* (Butler, 1918; Sen, 1926; Kapur, 1932 *a*; Bhatia, 1933), internal root disease caused by *Thyridaria tarda* (= *Botryodiplodia theobromæ*) (Butler, 1918; Anand, 1934 *b*) and a root disease from Central Travancore caused by *Cylindrocladium* sp. (Venkataramani, 1952).

Colletotrichum glaucosporioides (= *Glomerella cingulata*) has been found to cause a number of diseases including stem-end rot and wither tip disease of Citrus (Chaudhuri, 1936 *b*; Chaudhuri and Singh, 1930; Chaudhuri and Johar, 1931 *b*; Asthana, 1946), anthracnose of mango (Sattar, 1939; Sattar and Malik, 1939), and fruit rot of *Anona reticulata* (Chowdhuri, 1947 *b*). *Glomerella psidii* associated with guava canker was studied by Venkatakrisnaiah (1952).

Among the diseases of trees, mention may be made of wilt of *Casuarina* caused by *Trichosporium vesiculosum* (Marudaranjan, Ramakrishnan and Soumini, 1950), wilt of *Acacia melanoxylon* caused by *Fusarium ceruleum* (Verma, 1951) and die-back of *Polyalthia longifolia* associated with *Phomopsis* and other fungi (Das Gupta and Kamal, 1953). Das Gupta and Zachariah (1939, 1945) studied the die-back of mango tree associated with *Botryodiplodia theobromæ*, *Phoma* sp. and *Fusarium* sp. Wilt disease of guava due to a species of *Fusarium* was investigated by Das Gupta and Rai (unpublished). Prasad, Mehta and Lal (1952) identified the guava wilt pathogen as *Fusarium oxysporum* f. *psidi*. The biology of *Pestalozzia palmivorum* causing brown spots on leaves of coconut palms was studied by Agarwala and Baruah (1953).

BACTERIAL DISEASES OF PLANTS

Bacterial diseases of plants have received relatively little attention in India. The Plant Pathological Laboratory of the College of Agriculture, Poona, has been the principal centre of research on plant disease bacteria under the leadership of M. K. Patel and his associates. A brief review of the bacterial plant disease investigation in India was recently made by Patel and Kulkarni (1953).

The first record of a bacterial plant disease from this country was made by Butler (1903 *a*) who reported the 'bangle blight' of potatoes caused by *Phytobacterium solanacearum*. This disease, also known as the 'ring disease' of potato, is of common occurrence and has been

recorded by Coleman (1909), Mann and Nagpurkar (1921) and Patel, Kulkarni and Kulkarni (1952) reported that the problem of potato ring disease in the Bombay State was practically solved by planting disease-free potato seeds from Simla Hills.

The factors affecting soft rot of potatoes caused by four species of bacteria during transit and storage were studied by Hingorani and Addy (1953).

Hutchinson (1913) studied a bacterial wilt of tobacco in Rangpur District in Bengal and identified the pathogen as *Phytobacterium solanacearum*.

“Tondu” disease of wheat ears is common in some parts of the Punjab and was studied by Hutchinson (1917) and Chaudhuri (1935 a). Patel and Kulkarni (1953) pointed out that the pathogen *Aplanobacter tritici* (Hutchinson) Burkholder reported to cause this disease “appears to be a doubtful species of the genus *Aplanobacter* as it has never been proved pathogenic by itself”.

A bacterial disease of cotton, commonly known as “angular leaf-spot” or “black-arm” of cotton, has been the subject of several studies. Ballard and Norris (1923) reported that the angular leaf-spot of cotton caused by *Xanthomonas malvacearum* (Smith) Dowson, was prevalent in parts of Madras State. Balasubrahmanyam and Raghavan (1949) reported that in Madras it was confined to regions where eco-climate was normally congenial for its incidence. The influence of rainfall on the incidence of the disease and the disease resistance of different cotton varieties was studied by Ramakrishnan and Ramakrishnan (1950 d). Nitrogen utilisation by *Xanthomonas malvacearum* was studied by Patel and Kulkarni (1949).

Uppal (1948), in his monograph on cotton diseases, stated that the angular leaf-spot of cotton was a disease of minor importance in this country, probably because of the resistance to this disease shown by most indigenous cottons (belonging mainly to two species, *Gossypium arboreum* and *G. herbaceum*). Patel and Kulkarni (1948, 1950) found exotic types of cotton (mainly belonging to *G. hirsutum*) to be susceptible to this disease. Some varieties of *G. arboreum* and *G. herbaceum* were also found to be susceptible (Patel and Kulkarni, 1950; Balasubrahmanyam and Kesava Iyengar, 1952). Kulkarni and Patel (1951) reported some preliminary observations on the inheritance of the black-arm resistance in strains of *G. herbaceum*.

Two radically opposite views are held regarding the original home of the black-arm disease of cotton. Knight (1948), and Knight and Hutchinson (1950) consider it to be originally a disease of ‘Old World’ cottons of Indian origin and that it was introduced into the U.S.A. Studies on this disease in India, however, tend to indicate that the disease was probably introduced in this country through foreign cotton seeds (Patel and Kulkarni, 1950, 1953).

Ayyar (1927) reported a bacterial soft rot of garden poppies (*Papaver somniferum* and *P. rhæas*) caused by *Pectobacterium aroidæ* (Townsend) Waldec [= *Erwinia papaveris* (Ayyar) Magrou].

Black rot of cabbage due to *Xanthomonas campestris* (Pammel) Dowson was first recorded from this country by Patwardhan (1928). Patel, Abhyankar and Kulkarni (1949) investigated control measures against this disease. Working at the Iowa State College, U.S.A., Bhide (1949 a) studied the mode of infection of the cabbage black rot pathogen, *X. campestris*. Normally this pathogen infects the host through hydathodes situated on the leaf margins at the termination of the veins. Bhide's results indicate that stomatal infection is also possible in the black rot of cabbage, but the pathogen is unable to establish itself in this manner as it cannot reach the vascular elements in the leaves. In an earlier paper, Bhide (1948) presented the results of a comparative study of growth response and parasitism of wilt-producing phytopathogenic bacteria.

The specimens of citrus collected at Dehra Dun between 1827 and 1831 and deposited at the Kew Herbarium have been found to show citrus canker due to *Xanthomonas citri*. This disease is now well established in citrus orchards all over the country. Pruning followed by spraying with Bordeaux Mixture and a suitable insecticide has proved a promising control measure (Patel and Kulkarni, 1953).

Patel and Padhye (1948) studied a soft rot of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) caused by a bacterium tentatively referred to as *Bact. carotovorus*. Another disease of mango, the bacterial leaf-spot, was studied by Patel, Kulkarni and Moniz (1948) who described the pathogen as a new species, *Pseudomonas mangifera-indica*. In the herbarium at Dehra Dun, lesions similar to these have been observed in herbarium specimens of mango leaves collected from Bihar in 1881 and from Kheri and Dehra Dun in 1908.

Among the other bacterial diseases of plants reported from India, mention may be made of leaf-spot of *Piper betle* (Raghunathan, 1928; Asthana and Mahmud, 1944 a), soft rot of maize (Prasad, 1930), leaf-spot of khira, *Cucumis sativus* (Prasad, 1931 a), white soft rot of turnip (Prasad, 1931 b), tomato soft rot (Madhok and Fazal-ud-Din, 1943), tomato canker (Jain, 1951), soft rot of onions in storage (Hingorani and Malla, 1951), soft rot of peas (Hingorani, 1951 c), blight of *Phaseolus vulgaris* var. white kidney (Uppal, Patel and Nikam, 1946), leaf-spot and stem canker of pigeon pea (Kulkarni, Patel and Abhyankar, 1950), leaf-spot of soyabean (Uppal, Patel and Kamat, 1938 b), leaf-spot of *Desmodium gangeticum* (Patel and Moniz, 1948 a, b) and *D. diffusum* (Patel, 1949 c), leaf-spot of lucerne, chillies, *Xanthium* and castor (Patel, Kulkarni and Dhande, 1949 b, 1950 a, b, 1951 a), leaf-spot of *Vitis woodrowii* (Patel and Kulkarni, 1951 b) and fire blight of *Cosmos* (Prasad, 1952).

An important contribution to systematic bacteriology was made by Patel and Kulkarni (1951 a) in a paper on the 'nomenclature of

bacterial plant pathogens'. They discussed the need for grouping phytopathogenic bacteria under a separate family for which the name 'Phytobacteriaceæ' was proposed by them. The family Phytobacteriaceæ created by them comprises seven genera (including one new genus) primarily based on the types of symptoms produced. They proposed the name *Chlorobacter* nov. gen. for leaf-spot producing, green fluorescent bacteria, and emended the genus *Aplanobacter* to include gram-positive, non-motile, wilt-producing organisms. The genus *Erwinia* was retained for peritrichous plant pathogens not attacking pectin. Patel and Kulkarni (1951 *a*) also presented two keys (detailed and simple) of Phytobacteriaceæ and list some new combinations suggested by them.

VIRUS DISEASES OF PLANTS

Plant viruses recorded from India so far seem to represent only a small proportion of the total number of plant viruses that await investigation. During recent years there has been a growing awareness of the need for a more adequate survey of virus diseases of plants in this country. Researches on plant virus diseases during the last fifty years are briefly outlined below:

Spike disease of sandal (Santalum album).—Spike disease of sandal (*Santalum album*) was first reported by Butler (1903 *b*) and later by Coleman in 1917. It causes serious damage to sandal cultivators in South India and has been investigated chiefly by the workers of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Mysore State Department of Agriculture.

For some time the real cause of the spike disease of sandal was held in doubt, but the virus nature of the disease, first demonstrated by Coleman (1917), has now been confirmed by a large number of workers. Coleman (1917, 1923) demonstrated that the disease was transmissible through grafts. The fact that the roots of sandal plants formed haustorial conjunctions with roots of other plants suggested the possibility of root transmission of the disease. These findings were confirmed by the work of Sreenivasaya and Naidu (1928) and Venkata Rao and Iyengar (1934 *b*). It was, however, considered improbable that the transmission of the disease in the field conditions occurred only through haustoria, and a search was therefore made for suspected insect vectors, identity of which is, however, so far unestablished. Rangaswami and Sreenivasaya (1935), Rangaswami and Griffith (1940), and Sreenivasaya and Rangaswami (1934) made observations on natural dissemination of spike disease with reference to the possibility of seed transmission of the disease and the role of *Lantana* in relation to spike disease. The role of undergrowth in the spread of spike disease was studied by Venkata Rao (1935). Muniyappa, Subramaniam and Sreenivasaya (1941) reported that spike disease of *Vinca alba* was transmissible to *Santalum album* and recommended the eradication of this host. Among other studies on control of spike disease of sandal, mention may be made of the work of Iyengar (1933 *b*,

1938 *b*), Iyengar and Rangaswami (1935), Rangaswami and Griffith (1939 *a, b*).

Narasimhan (1928 *b*, 1933 *b*) reported the occurrence of intra-cellular bodies in spike disease of sandal, similar to those found associated with other virus diseases.

Jivana Rao (1921 *a, b*) investigated the physiological anatomy of spiked leaf in sandal and regarded the spike disease to be due to insufficiency of water owing to relations with unfavourable hosts. The virus nature of the disease was disputed by Jivana Rao (1925) who claimed to have demonstrated experimentally that the spike condition was attained by a process of starch accumulation in the sandal.

Chemical studies on spike disease of sandal were carried out by Iyengar (1928, 1929). Narasimhamoorthy and Sreenivasaya (1929) investigated the nitrogen metabolism in healthy and spiked leaves of sandal. A comparative study of the diastatic activity of spiked and healthy leaves of sandal was made by Sreenivasaya and Sastri (1928, 1929). Sastri (1929) reported that the abnormal accumulation of starch in the spiked leaves of sandal was due to defective translocation of the carbohydrate, possibly due to insufficient proportion of the liquefying fraction. Nitrogen metabolism in healthy and spiked leaves of sandal was studied by Narasimhamoorthy and Sreenivasaya (*loc. cit.*). Sreenivasaya (1930 *b*) reported the occurrence of mannitol in spike disease of sandal. A paper on the physiology of the spike disease of sandal was contributed by Sastri (1936).

Mosaic disease of sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum).—The mosaic disease of sugarcane was first reported by Dastur (1923) from the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa. Studies by Dastur (1923, 1932), Luthra and Sattar (1935) and Rafay (1935) showed that mottling of the leaves with yellow spots or streaks was the only characteristic symptom of the disease which was transmissible by injection of infectious juice to healthy plants. The physical properties of the sugarcane mosaic virus were studied by Rafay (*loc. cit.*).

McRae and Subramaniam (1933) and Luthra and Sattar (*loc. cit.*) reported that no significant decrease in the yield of cane or juice occurred in the case of plants suffering from mosaic.

Desai (1935 *a*) studied the relationship of the organisms found associated with sugarcane mosaic to the mosaic virus and suggested that the mosaic virus was a stable cyclostage of a bacterium which had a very unstable existence in the bacterial stage.

Dutt, Hussainy and Krishnaswami (1936) working at the Imperial Sugarcane Breeding Station, Coimbatore, investigated varietal resistance to the sugarcane mosaic and observed that varieties containing *Saccharum spontaneum* blood were generally resistant or at least

tolerant. A leaf adaptation conducive to mosaic resistance in sugarcane was recorded by Venkataraman and Thomas (1928).

Chona (1944) investigated the susceptibility of different varieties of sugarcane to mosaic disease. Co. 214 was the only Indian variety which could not be infected artificially. He also suggested use of disease-free stock and roguing as control measures.

A comprehensive five-year study of the mosaic disease of sugarcane at Pusa by Chona and Rafay (1950 *a*) showed that all setts from mosaic infected plants did not produce diseased plants; that amount of recovery from mosaic varied greatly with different varieties, place and year; that little or no natural dissemination occurred in India. Insect vector of the disease is as yet undetermined in India and it is suggested that it could be one other than *Aphis maidis*, the universally recognised vector of sugarcane mosaic.

Diseases of potato (Solanum tuberosum).—Virus diseases of potatoes were reported from the Punjab by Mahendra (1930) and later described by Pal (1943). Vasudeva and Lal (1944 *b*) isolated potato virus 'X' (*Solanum virus 1*) from majestic potatoes and worked out the physical properties of the virus. They also isolated potato virus 'Y' from Phulwa potatoes affected with severe mosaic and studied its physical properties.

Vasudeva (1946) studied the masking of symptoms and yield in relation to mosaic. The mosaic types observed on plants of Phulwa variety of potatoes were: negligible mottle; mild mosaic; borderline mild mosaic; severe mosaic and borderline severe mosaic. Potato virus A (*Solanum virus 3*) was isolated from Phulwa and Darjeeling Red Round Potatoes by Vasudeva and Ramamoorthi (1946). The visible symptoms were yellowing of leaf margins or brilliant yellow mottle and leaf crinkling.

Foliar necrosis of Phulwa potato was studied by Vasudeva and Gupta (1947). Mottling of leaves with necrotic spots were the prominent symptoms. The disease was sap transmissible to other solanaceous plants.

Vasudeva and Azad (1948) reported necrosis of Darjeeling Red Round potatoes in which dwarfing of plants and leaf curl was noticed. The disease was found transmissible through grafts and through white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*).

Pushkar Nath (1949) observed that leaf-roll virus was the most common cause of seed degeneration. Out of a total of 24 varieties tested 16 were susceptible to virus 'X', in 19 varieties, virus 'Y' was found in many combinations of virus 'X', and only one was found to be resistant.

Attempts to obtain virus-free seed-potatoes were made by Vasudeva and Azad (1949, 1952). Studies on the movement of tobacco mosaic

virus and potato virus 'X' through tomato plants were made by Capoor (1949 *a*) at Rothamsted Experimental Station and by Capoor and Varma (1949) at Poona.

Khanna and Ganguly (1953) at the Potato Breeding Station, Simla, estimated a loss of 77.5 per cent. to 87.5 per cent. in the Craig's Defiance potato variety due to virus 'Y'. Raychaudhuri (1953 *b*) studied the dilution curve of a ring spot strain of potato virus X.

Diseases of tomato (Lycopersicon esculentum).—Virus diseases of tomato were recorded by Likhite (1930). Desai (1933 *a, b*) investigated the nature of the causative agent of the mosaic disease of tomatoes. A bacteriophage was obtained from the diseased tissue which was tested for its lytic action on a number of soil organisms. The occurrence invariably of these organisms in diseased tissues and their absence from the healthy tissues led him to believe that these were in some way connected with the disease production in tomatoes.

Big-bud disease of tomatoes showing floral abnormalities, virescence and overgrowth was recorded by Vasudeva and Lal (1944 *a*) from Delhi. The disease was graft transmissible. Vasudeva and Samraj (1947) observed a latent virus in Sutton's Early Market tomato. They noticed that following the disappearance of early symptoms, the plants later presented a healthy look. X-bodies were found to be present and extracts from diseased plants produced symptoms on other members of the *Solanaceae*. In 1948, Vasudeva and Samraj described a leaf curl disease of tomato affected with dwarfing, puckering of leaves and its excessive curling. The disease was graft transmissible. Transmission through white fly (*B. tabaci*) of the disease to tobacco indicated it to be tobacco leaf curl virus.

Vasudeva, Garg and Azad (1949) studied a necrosis in tomatoes. Crinkling and mottling of leaves with necrotic spots were the symptoms recorded. The disease was sap transmissible to a number of plants belonging to *Solanaceae*.

Raychaudhuri (1952 *c*) studied the internal browning of tomato working at the Rockefeller Institute in New York. Das and Raychaudhuri (1953) at Delhi studied a probable strain of tomato aucuba mosaic. Leaves showed interveinal mottling and yellowing. The causal virus, which was sap transmissible, appeared to be a strain of tomato aucuba mosaic virus.

Diseases of the tobacco (Nicotiana spp.).—Movement of tobacco mosaic virus in the leaves of *Nicotiana glauca* was studied by Uppal (1934 *c*).

The most important disease of tobacco is the leaf curl. Five types of leaf curl of tobacco were observed and recorded by Pal (1937) and Pal and Tandon (1937) at New Delhi. Four out of the five types were regarded as distinct viruses and fifth a mixture of the two. Tobacco

leaf curl was found to be graft transmissible. Entomological investigations carried out by Pruthi and Samuel (1937, 1939, 1941, 1942) demonstrated transmission through white fly (*Bemisia tabaci*) on tobacco, tomato, sannhemp, *Ageratum conyzoides* and *Zinnia elegans*.

Pruthi (1944) calculated an economic loss of about 60–70 per cent. caused by leaf curl of tobacco, and designated the leaf curl viruses as A, B, C, D and X according to the five types of visible symptoms they produce. He reported that spraying and dusting, with effective chemicals, the crop at ten-day intervals for two months reduced the spread of the disease to a large extent.

Moorthy, Desai and Samuel (1948) made a preliminary study of chemical and physico-chemical control of tobacco leaf curl. They observed that manurial treatments greatly influenced the resistance of tobacco plants to the leaf curl infection, and reported that while nitrogenous manures increased the susceptibility of the host to disease, phosphates increased resistance.

Garg (1949) reported that white flies when transferred from diseased *Schizanthus* to tobacco produced typical leaf curl symptoms on the latter.

Raychaudhuri (1952 *b*), at Rockefeller Institute in New York, studied the retention of tobacco mosaic virus in tomato seeds. Seeds obtained from tomatoes showing internal browning were germinated and extracts from these plants were seen to produce lesions on *Nicotiana* plants indicating the presence of tobacco mosaic virus. The seeds of tomato were observed to retain the virus for fourteen to twenty-seven days.

Diseases of brinjal (egg plant) (Solanum melongena).—Little leaf disease of brinjal was reported by Thomas and Krishnaswami (1939) from the Agricultural Research Institute, Coimbatore. The disease was graft transmissible to *Datura fastosa*, tomato, tobacco, wild brinjal *Solanum xanthocarpum* and *S. trilobatum*. Two species of jassids, *Euetettix phycites* and *Empoasca devastans*, were reported to be the vectors.

Raychaudhuri (1947 *b*) described a mosaic disease of brinjals from Delhi. The symptoms included bright green mottling, puckering and crinkling of leaves with occasional rings. The disease was transmissible through graft and through *Empoasca devastans*. The symptoms of this disease were found to differ from those described from Rumania.

Cucumber mosaic virus.—Vasudeva and Lal (1943) described mosaic disease of bottlegourd (*Lagenaria vulgaris*) and designated the virus as Cucumis virus 3. Capoor and Varma (1948 *e*) described another mosaic disease, virus of which was referred to as Cucumis virus 2 B.

Vasudeva and Nariani (1952) at Delhi studied the host range of bottlegourd mosaic virus and showed that leaf extracts of *Datura*

stramonium and *Chilli* at a dilution of 1 in 100 and *Solanum nigrum* and tomato at 1 in 1000 inactivated the virus.

Vasudeva and Pavgi (1945) studied the seed transmission of melon mosaic virus. They isolated a strain of cucumber mosaic virus from the infected stock.

Vasudeva, Raychaudhuri and Singh (1949) isolated at New Delhi a new strain of *Cucumis virus 2* from *Lagenaria leucantha* (= *L. Siceraria*). Raychaudhuri, Lal and Vasudeva (1951) made further studies on *Cucumis virus 2 C* (a strain of cucumber green mottle mosaic) isolated from *L. leucantha* (= *L. siceraria*).

Bhargava (1951 *b*), working at the Rothamsted Experimental Station, made a comparative study of four strains of cucumber mosaic virus with reference to their host range, symptom production, virulence, aphid transmissibility and physical properties.

Diseases of Bean (Phaseolus spp./Dolichos lablab).—Capoor and Varma (1948 *c*) from Poona reported the occurrence of yellow mosaic of *Phaseolus lunatus*, enation mosaic of *Dolichos lablab* and a new virus disease (Double-bean yellow mosaic) of *D. lablab*.

Ali (1950), working at the Wisconsin University, studied the genetics of resistance to the common bean mosaic virus (Bean virus 1) in *Phaseolus vulgaris*. Crosses were made between susceptible and resistant varieties and inheritance of resistance was studied.

Bawden, Chaudhuri and Kassanis (1951) described some properties of broad-bean mottle virus which was seed transmissible and yielded a specific nucleo-protein containing nucleic acid of the ribose type.

Diseases of cowpea (Vigna catjang) and pigeon pea (Cajanus cajan).—Vasudeva (1942) recorded a mosaic disease on cowpea. Capoor, Varma and Uppal (1947) from Poona reported the mosaic disease of *Vigna catjang*. The leaves were malformed, dwarfed and chlorotic in the affected plants, which bore few seeds.

Capoor (1950 *b, d*) from Poona studied the symptomatology and modes of transmission and host range of sterility disease of pigeon pea. It was designated as "Pigeon pea sterility mosaic virus".

Diseases of cotton.—An abnormality of the Punjab American Cottons was reported by Afzal (1933 *a, b*) and Afzal, Jaggi and Singh (1935). Small leaf disease of cotton was reported by Gokhale (1936) and Uppal, Capoor and Raychaudhuri (1944).

Yellow vein-mosaic of bhendi (Hibiscus esculentum).—The yellow vein mosaic of Bhendi was reported by Uppal, Varma, and Capoor (1940). Detailed studies extending over a period of several years,

carried out by Capoor and Varma (1950 *b*), Varma, Capoor and Patel (1950) and Varma (1952), revealed that the virus was not sap transmissible. Transmission was possible only through grafting and the white flies (*Bemisia tabaci*). The virus was, however, not carried through the eggs of the viruliferous flies. They suggested a number of control measures against the disease.

Diseases of Crotalaria spp.—Mosaic disease of sannhemp (*Crotalaria juncea*), smalling and leaf curl were recorded by Raychaudhuri (1947 *a*, 1948) and Capoor (1950 *a*). Mosaic and smalling were found to be sap transmissible while leaf curl was graft transmissible. Foliar stunting, malformation and leaf puckering with occasional thin enations were the chief symptoms of the mosaic of sannhemp observed by Capoor in Bombay.

Raychaudhuri and Pathanian (1950) reported a mosaic disease of *Crotalaria mucronata*. The virus was sap transmissible to its own host *Crotalaria juncea*, cowpea, *Phaseolus* spp. The virus was not seed-borne.

Electron microscopic studies of sann-hemp mosaic virus were carried out by Das Gupta, De and Raychaudhuri (1951) at the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Calcutta. Crystalline preparations on examination revealed the presence of spherical particles of diameter between 26 to 40 $m\mu$. Electron microscopic determination of size and shape of a new mosaic disease of sannhemp was made by De (1951).

Diseases of Papaw (Carica papaya).—Sen, Ganguli and Mallick (1946) working at the Horticulture Research Station, Sabour, reported a serious disease of papaya trees resulting in foliar etiolation, leaf curl and premature death of fruits. Although sap transmission produced symptoms in healthy trees, it was observed that the diseased condition could also be induced by water-logging of the soil.

Capoor and Varma (1948 *d*) described a mosaic disease of *Carica papaya* in Bombay Province. The disease was transmissible by mechanical inoculations. The virus was observed to be very unstable and of non-persistent type. The disease was not seed transmissible.

Miscellaneous diseases.—Kulkarni (1924) referred to the occurrence of many obscure diseases of crops such as cardamom, chilli, etc., and suggested that attention should be paid to a study of such obscure diseases before they really become important for study.

Among other virus diseases investigated in India, mention may be made of mosaic disease of chillies in Bombay (Uppal, 1928), spike diseases of *Vinca rosea* (Iyengar, 1933 *a*), spike disease of *Dodonea viscosa* (Sastri and Narayana, 1931), leaf curl of *Zinnia elegans* (Mathur, 1933), phyllody of *Sesamum* at Pusa (Pal and Pushkar Nath, 1935), phyllody of sannhemp (Bose and Misra, 1938), bunchy top of plantains

(Varghese, 1945), mosaic disease of cardamom in South India (Uppal, Varma and Capoor, 1945), mosaic disease of Ragi at Mysore (Venkatarayan, 1946 *a*), mosaic disease of *Malvastrum coramandelianum* (Venkatarayan, 1947), mosaic disease of *Datura alba* (Capoor and Varma, 1948 *b*; Capoor, 1950 *c*), distortion mosaic of *Datura inoxia* (Capoor and Varma, 1952), yellow mosaic of lettuce (Vasudeva, Raychaudhuri and Pathanian, 1948), *Solanum jasminoides* virus (Pushkar Nath, 1952), Bayberry yellow (Raychaudhuri, 1952 *a*, 1953 *a*), *Saponaria* leaf curl (Azad, 1953), virus disease of *Thevetia nerifolia* (Garg, 1953) and *Physalis peruviana*, a new host of tobacco leaf curl virus (Nariani and Pathanian, 1953). Mosaic disease of chilli was transmitted by *Aphis gossypii* at New Delhi by Raychaudhuri and Jha (1954).

Physiological studies on viruses.—Desai (1933 *b*) at Pusa studied the nature of the causative agent of the virus diseases of plants. Sadasivan (1940), working at Rothamsted Experimental Station, carried out a quantitative study of the interaction of viruses in the plants. He demonstrated that when the saps of healthy plants were mixed with potato virus 'X' or Aucuba mosaic virus *in vitro*, there was an inhibition in the lesion production on *Nicotiana tabacum* and *N. sylvestris*. Saps containing strains of unrelated viruses also reduced the infectivity to the same extent as healthy saps. However, saps containing strains of related viruses, had greater and specific inhibitory action.

Uppal and Capoor (1940) discussed the movement and mechanism of movement of the viruses within their hosts.

Studies on the production of plant virus inhibitors by fungi and mechanism of inhibition of plant virus infection by fungal growth products were made by Gupta and Price (1950, 1952), at the University of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Detailed studies were made with filtrates of *Neurospora sitophila* and *Trichothecium roseum* and it was found that the inhibitors acted on the host and not on the virus.

General Studies.—Origin and development of the views on virus diseases were discussed by Roy (1951 *a*).

Capoor (1952) devised a culture box for practical purposes of collection, preservation and transportation of virus affected plant material.

PHYSIOLOGICAL DISEASES OF PLANTS

Among the physiological diseases of plants, mango necrosis has received considerable attention in India. It is also known as the 'black-tip' or 'keli' disease of mango and is characterised by the necrosis of tissues at the tip of the fruits. It is of common occurrence in mango orchards situated in the vicinity of brick-kilns in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and parts of Bengal and the Punjab. It has been comprehensively studied by Das Gupta and his school of workers at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and by Sen in Bihar.

Mango necrosis was first recorded from Bihar in 1909 by Woodhouse and later from Uttar Pradesh by Dey. Reference to this disease was also made by Naik (1934), by Allan (1936) and by Pal, Chatterji and Ranjan (1937). The first detailed observations on the disease were made by Das Gupta and Verma (1939). A consolidated account of the results of investigations on mango necrosis carried out at Lucknow under a scheme financed by the Indian (formerly Imperial) Council of Agricultural Research (1941-51) was presented in a detailed report submitted to the Council by Das Gupta (1951).

Das Gupta and Verma (*loc. cit.*) described the symptomatology of mango necrosis and reported that no fungi or bacteria were found associated with the disease and no evidence of its being a virus disease was obtained. Locally the necrosis is attributed to the deleterious effect of brick-kiln fumes, but as it does not occur in all orchards in the vicinity of brick-kilns, they concluded that some other factors must be at least partly responsible. They reported that lack of vigour in mango trees appeared to be a contributory factor in the incidence of the disease. They also observed marked differences in varietal susceptibility of mangoes, the fruits of Dasehri variety being found to be most severely affected. Das Gupta and Verma (1940) showed that in the absence of brick-kilns in the vicinity of the orchards, the disease could be artificially produced by injecting sterile juice of necrotic fruits in healthy mangoes.

Das Gupta and Sinha (1944) reported that the presence of a coloured deposit in the vessels of outer mesocarp in the distal end of the mango fruits was the first sign of necrosis. This result was further extended by Das Gupta, Asthana and Bhatt (1955) who made a comprehensive study of the occurrence of deposits in conducting channels of ten varieties of healthy and necrotic mangoes in fresh and preserved condition. They confirmed that no deposits occurred in conducting channels of fresh healthy mangoes and that the presence of deposits in the xylem vessels of the mango fruit was the first internal index of necrosis. They also found that the deposits induced by formalin-containing preservatives were different in character and distribution from those occurring in fresh necrotic mangoes.

Results of comprehensive epidemiological surveys of mango necrosis extending over several years made by Sen (1943 *a, b*) in Bihar and by Das Gupta and his school of workers in Uttar Pradesh (Das Gupta and Verma, 1939; Das Gupta, 1951) confirmed the association of brick-kilns with orchards affected by mango necrosis. A number of studies on the effect of brick-kiln fume and its constituents were made. It was found that gases like sulphur dioxide and ethylene cause deleterious effects on mangoes but these effects were different from the typical symptoms of mango necrosis (Pal, Chatterji and Ranjan, *loc. cit.*; Ranjan and Jha, 1940; Sen, Mallik and Roy, 1943; Das Gupta, Verma and Sinha, 1941; Das Gupta, Verma and Asthana, 1944; Verma, 1952). Experiments were also made to test the effect of artificial

fumigation on mangoes by burning various fuels in miniature brick-kilns erected in healthy mango orchards. The percentage of necrotic mangoes obtained by Sen (1943 *a*) in such experiments was considerably higher than that obtained at Lucknow (Das Gupta, 1951). Direct evidence of the causal relation of brick-kiln fumes to mango necrosis was furnished by Das Gupta *et al.* (1950) who showed that a crystalline fraction of the ether-soluble constituents of brick-kiln fumes was capable of causing necrosis in mango fruits.

LICHENS

Our knowledge of the Indian Lichens is mainly based on the fragmentary collections which the foreign botanists of the nineteenth century made while exploring the Angiosperm Flora of India. No organised, extensive and intensive collections have ever been made in India by a specialist of this branch. The comparatively small number of the micro-lichens so far reported from India, in spite of their abundance, indicates that the lichens had been mostly collected when they were unavoidably conspicuous. The number of lichen species described from India so far hardly exceeds a thousand species. Even from among these, the specimens of only a few species exist in the Indian herbaria; such as those of S. Kurz and G. Watt at the Calcutta Herbarium and Strachey, Winterbottom and Duthie at the Dehra Dun Herbarium. The absence of a proper lichenological herbarium has been a great handicap for the progress of lichenological studies in India. During recent years, Awasthi, working at the Lucknow University, has accumulated a large collection of lichens from different parts of the country.

Till the year 1850 the lichen collections that had been made from India were those by Wallich from Eastern Himalayas and Nepal; Belanger from S. India; Perottet from Nilgherries (described by Montagne in 1842), Hooker from Darjeeling and Sikkim (described by Taylor in 1847) and Strachey and Winterbottom from Kumaon (described by Babington in 1852). Some of these and various other collections, either not described or reported earlier, numbering to 75 species, were incorporated by the great Finnish Lichenologist, W. Nylander, in his classical work 'Synopsis Methodica Lichenum' in 1860. Nylander (1867 *b*) described the lichens from Calcutta and its neighbourhood, in 1869 from Lower Bengal and 24 Parganas and in 1873 from Andamans, all collected by S. Kurz, the then Curator of Royal Botanical Garden, Calcutta. Later in 1900 he made additions to the lichen flora of Ceylon. Lichens of Ceylon from the collection made by Thwaites were earlier described by Leighton in 1869.

Muller (1892) made a critical re-examination of several collections of Indian Lichens kept in various European herbaria. He also described a large number of lichens, some of which were new species, collected by G. Watt from Manipur, Assam. At almost the same period, J. Stirton described a large number of new species of the Indian

lichens preserved in British herbaria. Hue (1892, 1898) while describing the exotic lichens of the Paris Herbarium reported several species of Indian Lichens and later in 1900 described a collection of lichens from the Nilgiris (Nilgherries) in South India.

Jatta (1911) described many new species of lichens from South India and Ceylon. Paulson (1925) from Everest region and Smith (1926, 1931) from Northern India (chiefly from Eastern and N.-W. Himalayas collected by A. C. Joshi and G. L. Chopra).

Among the first Indian workers, Quraishi (1928) listed 30 species of lichens occurring in the neighbourhood of Mussorie. In a monograph on Lichens of the Himalayas, G. L. Chopra (1934) described 75 species of Indian Lichens.

Certain new species from India were described by Choisy in 1931, and by Rasanen in 1950-51 from the collection made by Awasthi. Seventy species of lichens collected by Foreau from Palni Hills in S. India in 1932-33 were listed by Moreau and Moreau (1952). A note on the lichens of Simla was contributed by Awasthi (1953).

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